Supplemental Material

Date	Selected Communications	Excerpted Text
January 31, 2020	OPP notice regarding 2019 novel coronavirus, 2019-nCoV (coronavirus)	The outbreak of 2019 novel coronavirus, 2019-nCoV (coronavirus), is of serious concern to the Office of Polar Programs, which supports thousands of researchers, operational personnel, and other visitors to remote stations in the Arctic and Antarctica.
March 30, 2020	OPP science support and operational changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic	The Office of Polar Programs (OPP) recognizes the particular challenges that COVID-19 poses for the polar research community and wishes to emphasize the following additional information. Necessary restrictions to contain the spread of the disease that have been put into place around the world, have changed the ability of researchers and research support staff to travel to remote polar locations. These restrictions also pose challenges for the supply chains and logistics systems upon which we rely. Moreover, it is vital that polar research and operations do not introduce COVID-19 to remote polar regions where medical capabilities are limited and would be quickly overwhelmed. While many Arctic researchers may have funds in their grant awards for travel to field sites, OPP expects you to heed the official and voluntary travel restrictions that will prevent the spread of the disease to polar communities. We understand that these issues will generate postponement of research and/or meetings as they were originally planned. Thus, it is not business-as-usual for either the Arctic or

		Antarctic research enterprise for the foreseeable future. OPP staff is intensively working via remote means to gauge impacts and to work with our community members and interagency and international partners to mitigate and plan for a future post the COVID-19 crisis. OPP Program Officers have been actively reaching out to individual investigators and investigators are encouraged to continue to keep their Program Officers apprised of their challenges and concerns. This communication summarizes at a high-level the status of operations across our programs
April 23, 2020	UPDATE: How USAP is responding to COVID-19 challenges and planning for the upcoming season	The Office of Polar Programs (OPP) recognizes the particular challenges that COVID-19 poses for the Antarctic research community and wishes to update you with the following additional information ... In light of these challenges, we are adopting a tiered set of priorities to guide our planning. ... Over the next six weeks, we will be reviewing the activities and resources associated with each tier so that we can provide the community with an update in the beginning of June. In the meanwhile, you are encouraged to reach out to your program officer to discuss the specific challenges you are facing. We are here to help, and your input is important.
January 19, 2021	New Dear Colleague Letter: Supporting Data and Sample Reuse in Polar Research	The COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe disruptions to the polar research community's ability to access field sites. While field-based research is, and will continue to be, a critical element of polar science, it is one component of much broader Arctic and Antarctic research

		practices. This DCL aims to improve utilization of previous investments in in situ data and sample collections while also encouraging more inclusive participation of researchers in polar research who may not have the ability or desire to access field sites.
March 24, 2021	UPDATE: COVID-19 Impacts on Arctic Fieldwork	Some aspects of fieldwork might best be accomplished in collaboration with others who can service instrumentation, collect samples, or collaborate in other ways. For example, on-site staff are available at Toolik Field Station and Utqiaġvik, Alaska, and Summit Station, Greenland, to support a limited amount of fieldwork. Researchers with fieldwork planned for 2021 should communicate directly with their cognizant program officer and the regional contact for their fieldwork to discuss fieldwork plans and the implications of delaying fieldwork
August 3, 2021	UPDATE: USAP plans for the upcoming 2021-22 Antarctic season	NSF is committed to being supportive and as responsive as possible to the needs of the research community in the face of continuing challenges posed by COVID-19. ...We remain in close contact with our colleagues in other National Antarctic programs regarding plans and protocols for minimizing the risk that COVID poses to Antarctica as we all face another season of COVID-related risks and restrictions....Some fifty science and technical activities will be supported by limited team deployments or through technical support from the Antarctic Support Contractor. We will also be moving forward with construction of a replacement pier at Palmer Station, which we believe can be done

		safely and will alleviate additional disruption to peninsula science in future years. However, AIMS construction at McMurdo Station will again be postponed. We realize that this curtailment of the USAP research program will impact many of you, and we are committed to working with everyone affected to map out a path forward.
March 29, 2022	Arctic Fieldwork Update: COVID-19 Mitigation 2022	The goals of NSF's Arctic Sciences Section remain to protect the health of program participants and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Arctic, particularly to communities and research stations, while assisting researchers to meet their original project goals to the extent possible given constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Arctic Sciences Section is focused on preventing COVID-19 from entering research stations, where an outbreak would impact large numbers of people, research projects, and station operations. The particular focus is on Toolik Field Station in Alaska and Summit Station in Greenland.
April 27, 2022	Dear Colleague Letter: Update on Science Support and Infrastructure in Antarctica	Despite these challenges, the USAP successfully supported science projects in the 2021-22 season at approximately 30-40% of 'normal' levels, in accordance with a tiered system of prioritization. The highest priority science projects included fieldwork involving international collaborations, projects with critical time-series data, and projects involving instrument maintenance to

		prevent irreversible damage to, or loss of, science infrastructure. Assuming pandemic restrictions ease in the coming season, the USAP will prioritize efforts to support already-funded science projects, to the greatest extent possible. Working through the extensive backlog may take several years to complete, and will require continued vigilance, thoughtful execution, and patience.
November 2, 2022	USAP plans for the upcoming Antarctic research season	As the Antarctic season ramps up, participants will see a much-anticipated return to routine deployment counts after two years of significant reductions. The program is planning to host 90 science events and deploy more than 2,500 grantees, support team members, construction workers, and operations staff.
November 7, 2022	NSF Office of Polar Programs message regarding pause in deployments to Antarctica	Following up on the National Science Foundation's announcement on Nov. 5, 2022 regarding a pause on all travel to Antarctica, we regret those who are impacted by this change in deployments. If you have any questions, please contact your Program Officer. We apologize for the disruption some are experiencing; health and safety are our highest priorities at this time.
November 12, 2022	Message to the Antarctic community regarding COVID measures	While our goal is to allow science to go forward, this goal cannot supersede our responsibility to keep our population safe. We recognize that the preventive measures taken over the last few seasons resulted in severe limitations of scientific work, which felt frustrating. Our pause and ongoing efforts intend to strike a balance between safety, health, and the progress of science.

		Adherence to the mitigation tactics is the fastest way to get back to the research at hand.
May 30, 2023	Arctic Field Season COVID-19 Update for 2023	Projects are responsible for the costs incurred by a COVID-19 outbreak in their project, including additional costs for accommodations or commercial flights. NSF has no obligation to provide additional field time if COVID-19 or other issues prevent the project from accomplishing its goals. .... Researchers are responsible for developing a protective plan for their field team to verify informed consent that is approved by leadership at their institution. This plan ensures the awardee institution is aware of and accepts the risks of the fieldwork.
April 1, 2024	Update on Science Support and Infrastructure in Antarctica	In the June 2023 Dear Colleague Letter NSF 23-117, NSF announced that logistics capabilities for new and funded projects continued to be severely limited due to enduring impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, including delays to the major infrastructure upgrade work at NSF McMurdo Station. While much progress has been made during the current field season, there remains a significant backlog of funded projects that need logistics resources between 2024 and 2026 to achieve their research objectives. For the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 field seasons, NSF will therefore focus on supporting those projects already funded.