

# COVID-19 Impacts on NSF Research & Operations in the Polar Regions



*July 30, 2020*

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# USAP Risk Mitigation

- Minimize the number of deployers
- Implement best available testing and isolation







# The Upcoming Season for USAP



Credit: Jonathan Hayden



Credit: Mike Lucibella



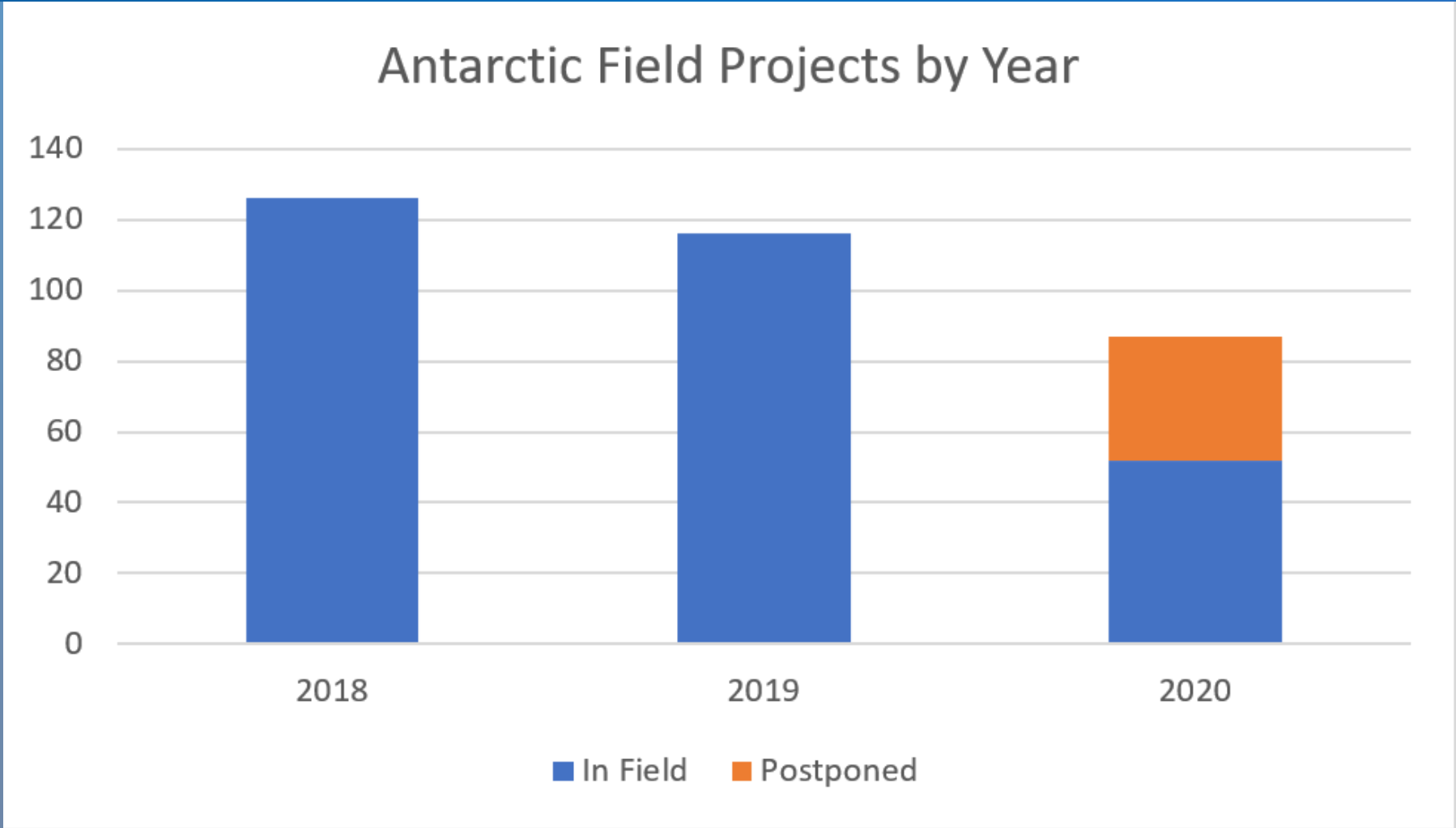
Credit: Jack Green



Credit: Mike Lucibella



# Impacts of COVID-19 on Antarctic Research







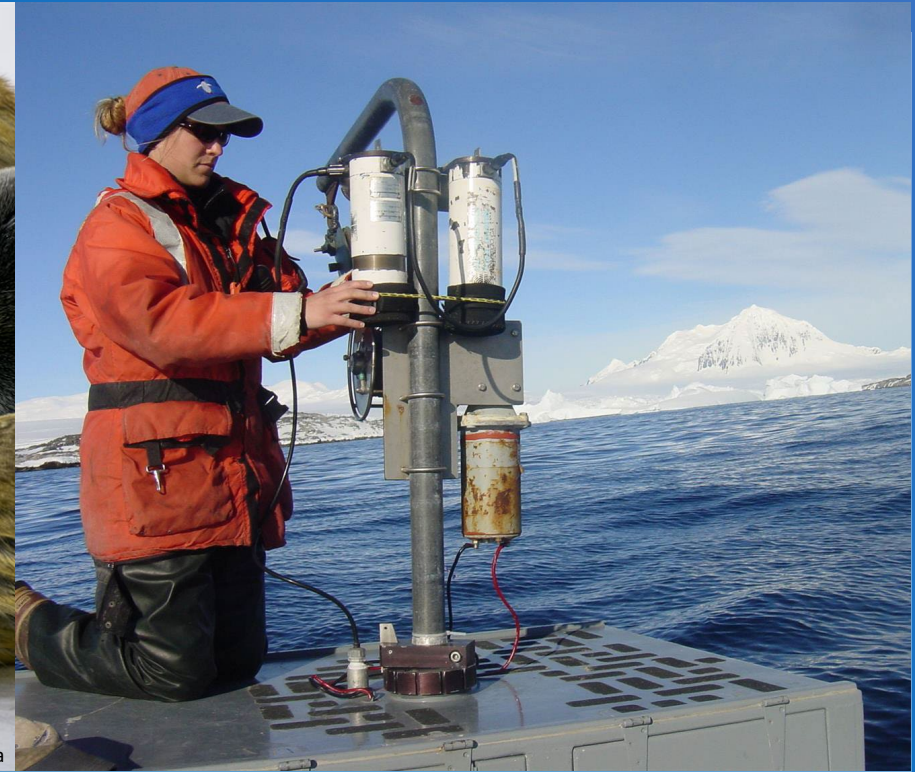
# Continued Support to Science



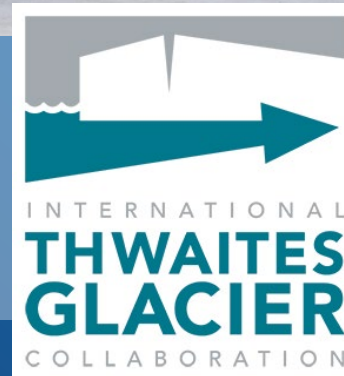
Credit: Dr. Daniel Michalik



Credit: Mike Lucibella

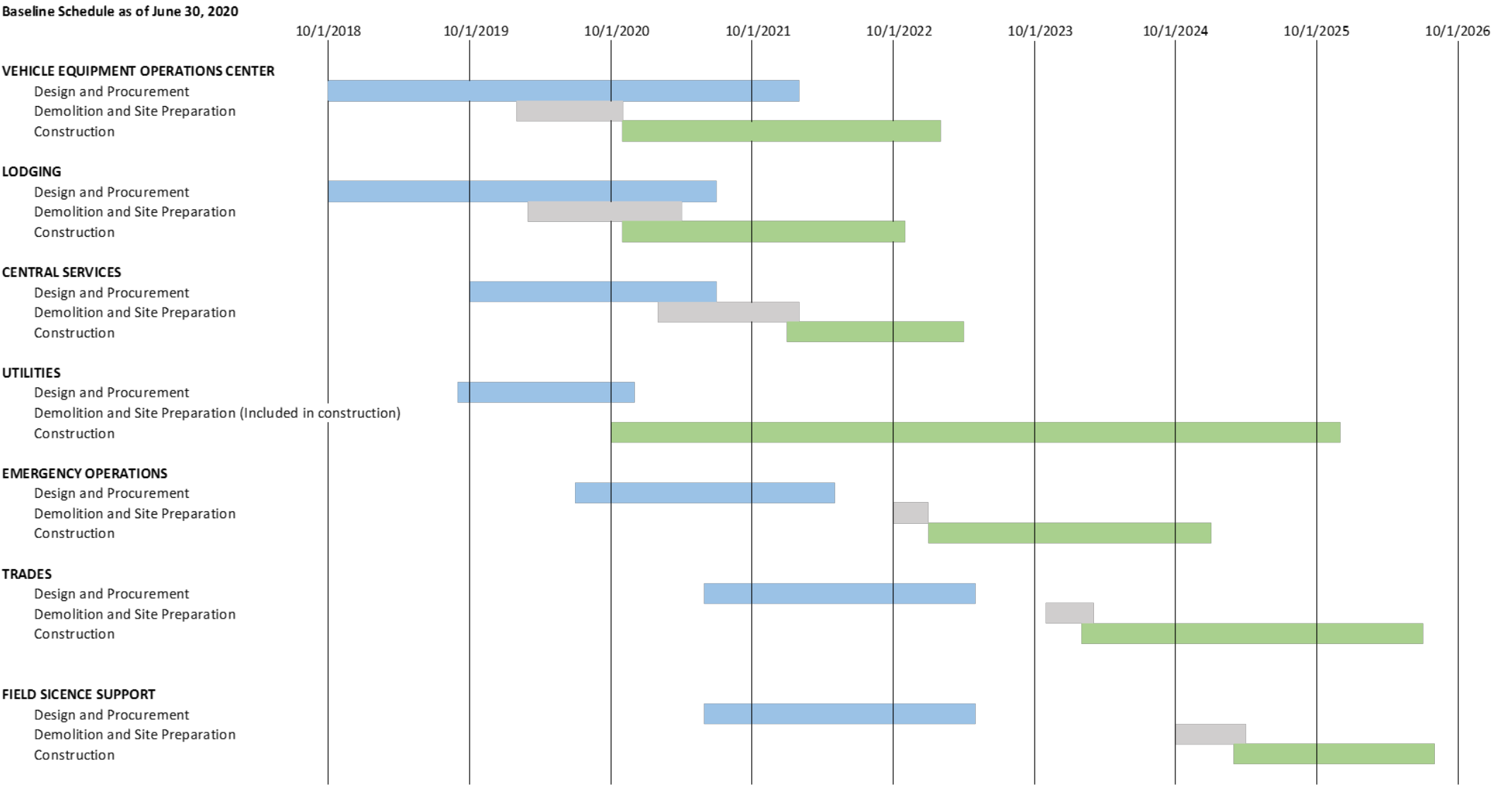


Credit: Jeffrey Kietzmann





# AIMS Impacts







# Overcoming Challenges



## Lack of Commercial Transportation

- Airline negotiation
- Charter flights
- Military transport

## Infection in a Deployed Cohort

- Additional staffing in reserve
- Testing during isolation
- Conservative approach to gatherings



## National Travel Restrictions

- Collaboration with gateways
- Defined plans and protocols
- Communication



## Suspected Virus on Station

- Trained COVID response plans
- Clinic equipment and resources
- Testing and treatment options



## Managed Isolation Issues

- Recruitment and education
- Code of Conduct annex
- Monitoring and vigilance

## Emergency Response Capabilities

- International collaboration
- Tabletop exercises
- On-station testing capabilities





# Communication

Options ▾ Speaker View

Participants (99)

Panelists (22) Attendees (77)

Find a panelist

- Wilson Sauthoff (Host, me)
- Alexandra Is... (Co-host)
- Katherine Otts (Co-host)
- RM Robert Monnity (Co-host)
- Angela Turner
- Beverly Walker
- DK Daniel King
- Francisco Moore
- JB Jennifer Burns
- Joe Kittle

Mute All Unmute All More ▾

Chat

meet get my name to be and I'm moderating today  
Thanks so much for joining us today

From Robert Monnity to All panelists:  
Hello Bev

From Me to All panelists:  
Hi Robert, thanks for being here!  
(Bev, Robert is our IT support)

From Robert Monnity to All panelists:  
I am the AV Specialist assigned to this meeting to help with any issue that may arise

From Beverly Walker to

Beverly Walker

Wilson Sauthoff

Stephanie Short

Kelly Falkner

Alexandra Isem

Q&A

Open(4) Answered Dismissed

Anonymous Attendee 02:02 PM  
What is the expected turnaround time for proposal decisions from AOAS? Are virtual panels being held?

Answer live Type answer

Anonymous Attendee 02:02 PM  
We are aiming for a June 1 proposal submission. Is this well within the time frame for a proposed field season at McMurdo of Sept-Dec. 2021?

Answer live Type answer



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OPP science support and operational changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

March 31, 2020

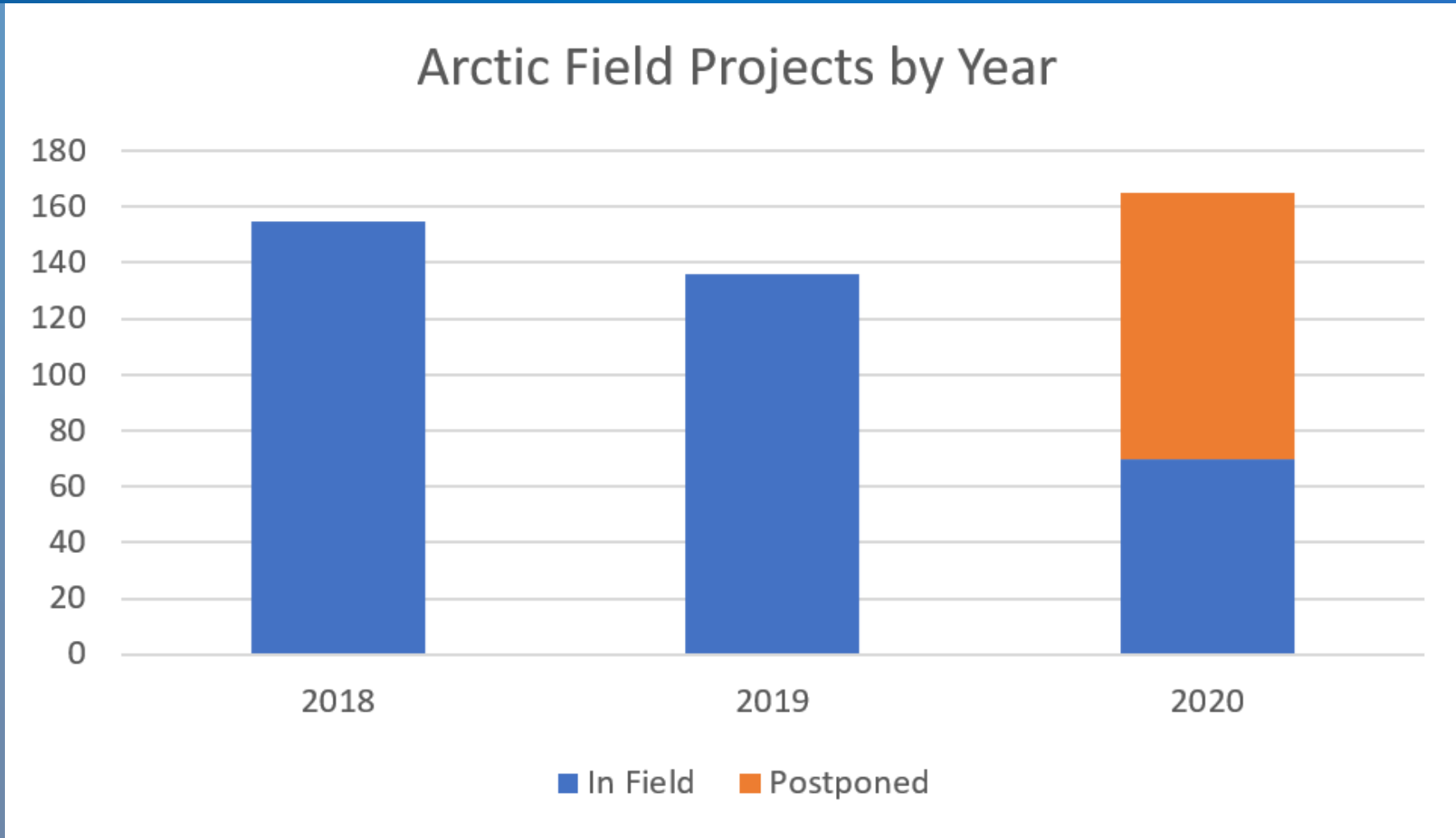
NSF is committed to being supportive and as responsive as possible to the needs of the research community in the face of challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Please consult the NSF website regularly for up-to-date information and answers to frequently asked questions. [https://www.nsf.gov/news/special\\_reports/coronavirus/](https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/).

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.





# Impacts of COVID-19 on Arctic Research





# Summit Station & MOSAiC Expedition



ARTICLE

## MOSAiC researchers adapt to the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and extreme Arctic conditions

A landmark international research effort copes with unprecedented complications.

By Kristen Pope | Thursday, May 21, 2020



The MOSAiC ice camp and RV Polarstern. (Photo credit: Stefan Hendricks)

While much of the world was locked down in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, an international team of researchers working on the [MOSAiC expedition](#) was trapped for about two months in the Arctic onboard the ice-locked Polarstern icebreaker.





# Questions?

