

National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project COVID-19 risk assessment

2. Checklist of precautions

If carrying out the IUCN risk assessment (RA 1) indicates that it is appropriate to proceed with a survey (low or medium risk that can be mitigated), please complete the following checklist of recommended precautions. Please also consider the Survey methods 2022 document when preparing for a survey. Ahead of the survey date, please share a copy of the form with all of your survey team including any additional precautions you would like to add in the blank rows below.

Before the survey

Keep to a reasonable number of people attending each site, considering the minimum number of surveyors required for health and safety purposes.	
Bring spare face masks in case those being worn get damaged, dirty, or otherwise rendered ineffective during the survey.	
If a member of the survey team has COVID-type symptoms then they should not participate until they have had two negative lateral flow test results 24 hours apart.	
If there are symptoms or positive test results for COVID-19 in the household of a member of the survey team, the survey team member should not participate until they personally have received two negative lateral flow test results 24 hours apart.	
All surveyors should have had a negative lateral flow test within the 24 hours before the survey (available from many pharmacies or if eligible from https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests).	
Survey team members that will handle bats should have up-to-date vaccinations and titres for rabies and vaccinations for SARS-CoV-2. Be aware that vaccination schemes may take months to implement.	
Please also refer to https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-surveying-and-mitigation-works-affecting-wildlife (NB there is a statement on the webpage to say this guidance was withdrawn, however it is still valid as it pertains to working with wildlife rather than human to human transmission risk).	
As best practice be aware of current country level and government guidance over COVID-19, as it pertains to people working with wildlife.	

During the survey

All members of team instructed that wearing an unvented (non-valved) and filtering face mask is essential (vaccinated people are still able to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to other people and wildlife). For more information on face masks please see Box 2, page 10, of IUCN guidance .	
Take precautions against contaminating surfaces within the site, including using hand sanitiser and wearing gloves. Avoid touching your face or mask whilst wearing gloves. Do not eat or drink in proximity of bats or on the same surfaces where you are handling bats.	
Disinfect surfaces or instruments that come into contact with bats regularly. For guidance on disinfection see Box 3, page 11, in IUCN guidance .	
Ensure that surveyors do not stay within 2 metres of the trap for longer than is necessary to remove the bat.	
Keep to a minimum number of surveyors going within 2 metres of a bat.	
Please consider the space available for both bats and people at the workstation area away from the trap.	
Designate a field member to be the "field hygiene monitor", and make sure everyone in the team understands the field protocol.	

After the survey

Disinfect your field and personal equipment. For guidance on disinfection see Box 3, page 11, in IUCN guidance .	
Properly dispose of biohazard waste (materials contaminated with blood, urine and/or feces, used gloves, and sharps) following local government guidelines.	