Revised ARC COVID Policy on Visitors to Apache Point Observatory – Effective February 1, 2022

All visitors to the Apache Point Observatory (APO) are required to adhere to the following revised policy by the Astrophysical Research Consortium (ARC) Board of Governors until further notice. This policy is meant to protect the APO staff and other visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic and holds until removed by the ARC board. The APO staff follows similar restrictions based on policies of New Mexico State University.

1) All visitors to APO must be fully vaccinated against COVID including booster shots* if eligible, and provide proof prior to arrival at APO. Exemptions (medical, recent infection, etc.) are not guaranteed and must be approved by the Director of Operations at APO prior to arrival. Those with approved exemptions must show proof of a negative COVID test within 3 days prior to arrival and will be subject to on-site COVID tests.

2) Non-essential visitors (e.g., friends, family, peers) must adhere to the above policies and must submit requests for overnight stays (which are not guaranteed) to the Director of Operations.

3) Masks must be worn indoors in shared spaces at all times AND outdoors when social distancing is not possible such as when working in close proximity.

Individuals that do not adhere to the above policy will not be allowed on site. Those testing positive at APO as well as those in unmasked close contact with the former will be self-isolated.

* In this context, people are considered to be fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their COVID booster shots, having already received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or equivalents.