



WTA COVID-19 Trail Work Enhanced Safety Protocols

Note: This document is meant to provide a high-level overview of the safety protocols WTA plans to use on trail. It is not a detailed implementation guide but meant to be used as protocols and best practices to maintain safety during trail maintenance work parties and events. Please use common sense and adhere to these protocols as best as you can. Because the COVID-19 situation is constantly evolving this document will be updated and/or revised as necessary. This version was updated **January 1, 2022**.

Key Elements of WTA's Safety Protocols on All Events

- **Vaccination requirement** – All participants must submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination prior to event. Participants will be unable to participate without proof of vaccination.
- **Pre-screening of participants** - All participants will be asked a set of health screen questions based on the latest CDC guidance prior to participating in any activities. Any participant that answers “Yes” to any of the following will not be allowed to participate:
 - **Have you been diagnosed as having COVID-19 within the last 10 days?**
 - **Have you been in close contact with anyone who is confirmed or suspected by a health care provider to have COVID-19 within the last 14 days or anyone who has symptoms consistent with COVID-19?**
 - Close contact means someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collections) until the time the patient is isolated. **Note:** Crew leaders do not need to define this to participants unless asked.
 - **Are you currently, or have you in the last 72 hours, experienced any of the following symptoms that you cannot attribute to another health condition?:** Fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, new loss of smell or taste, gastrointestinal problems such as nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting.
- **Cloth face coverings** - All participants must bring/wear their own cloth face coverings. Coverings are not required when participants are working outside, provided they can maintain a distance of at least 6 feet of others. Coverings are required when working within 6 feet of others, including when public trail users are present.
- **Signage & passing distance** - Proper signage and flagging will be used to alert users to trail maintenance activities. Trail maintenance crews must step off trail to allow users to pass and apply face coverings when within 6 feet of others.
- **“Sign-in and safety orientation”** - All volunteers must sign an online waiver form prior to the event that outlines the risks of coronavirus, the steps being taken by WTA to protect staff and volunteers and the safe behavior expected of them on trail. All participants will receive an orientation to the safety protocols the morning of the event. Any participant who does not follow the required safety guidance may be asked to leave.
- **Emergency response** - Any individuals injured on trail will be treated based on potential close contact and risk of exposure to response staff. All suggested PPE will be observed during field emergency response to pre-screened WTA staff and volunteers, minimizing contact and risk of virus exposure. If further qualified medical assistance is needed, WTA field leaders will contact the appropriate emergency medical services

immediately. **Note:** *If responder needs to be within 6 feet to respond to an injured participant, steps should be taken to minimize amount of individuals responding to the incident and face coverings must be worn. Extra PPE has been provided in first aid kits for these purposes. Post incident, responders should monitor themselves for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.*

Additional WTA Guidelines

- **Group size limits based on phasing protocols** –
 - **Multi-day Trips:**
 - BCRT multi-day trips are limited to group sizes of 12 and based on size of camp and ability to follow wilderness guidelines.
 - In 2022, volunteer vacations may be limited to 8-10 person crews with possible modifications to be determined on a case by case basis.
 - **Day work parties:** Group sizes on day work parties are limited to 20 and based on the comfort level of the crew leader, scope of project, and/or by request of the land manager. It is OK to continue smaller event sizes to maintain proper COVID-19 safety.
- **Carpooling** - Carpooling is permitted. Utilize the following protocols when carpooling:
 - Must wear face coverings if within 6 feet of others
 - Spread out as much as possible within the vehicle
 - Encourage household members to sit together
 - Maximize ventilation in vehicle by opening windows
 - Sanitize and wipe down interior surfaces before and after use
- **For Sawyers and Logout Projects** – Double and single bucking crosscut sawing is allowed, but face coverings must be worn if within 6 feet of others (including while sawing).
- **Contact Tracing** – WTA will follow recommended CDC guidelines for contact tracing should a risk for exposure be identified on an event.
 - As soon as possible, WTA staff will notify participants who may have been exposed to an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 on an event, maintaining confidentiality of participants to the best of our abilities.
 - It is strongly encouraged that if there is risk of exposure, individuals should monitor themselves for signs and symptoms, seek out a COVID-19 test as soon as possible and report any relevant information to WTA staff.

Supplemental Equipment List

Note: *This is not a comprehensive list of all tools and supplies provided by the crew leader on each trip. These are additional items crew leaders should have onsite while following COVID-19 protocols.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing or hand sanitizer station (optional for day work parties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) – # of bottles may vary by trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra disposable gloves and surgical masks for First Aid Kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long handled scrub brush for tools (not required for backcountry trips)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New, un-used work gloves for back-up; participants provide their own, no sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitization wipes and/or sanitization spray with paper towels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean hardhats (must be sanitized between use) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear face mask (to communicate with participants who are hard of hearing or hearing impaired)

COVID-19 Guidelines for Multi-Day Trips

○ Camp Location Selection

- Must be large enough to accommodate good spacing for the group and retain Leave No Trace (LNT) guidelines.
- Must have access to an outhouse, or location where a latrine could be dug for the crew, or other such improvised waste management is available (such as blue bags).
- Tents must be spaced 50ft. away from any communal camp area (like handwashing station, kitchen and latrine).

○ Personal Hygiene

- A handwashing or hand sanitizer station will be available for all participants in a central location that allows for social distancing. **Note:** *A handwashing station is required on all volunteer vacations where food is provided and gear is shared between participants.*
- Participants must wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before preparing food, after eating, after using the latrine and after touching high-touch surfaces. While crew leaders will supply hand sanitizer, it is highly encouraged for participants to bring their own supply.
- For backcountry trips, a sump will be dug according to LNT guidelines for wastewater.
- Participants should wear a clean and refreshed cloth covering each day. Bring 3-5 and clean each night.
- Each participant is responsible for “packing out” all of their own garbage and recycling during their trip.

○ Latrine/Outhouse/Cathole

- If no outhouse is available, crew will dig a latrine according to LNT guidelines.
- All volunteers will bring or be provided with their own toilet paper.
- Participants should disinfect the seat after each use.
- A hand sanitizer dispenser will be placed directly outside any toilet area. Participants should use this right after using the toilet and should also wash their hands with soap and water.
- As a crew, utilize common sense and best camping practices or innovations to mitigate poor sanitization.

○ Water Filtration

- Communal water filtration will be provided in basecamp on volunteer vacations. Participants on backcountry response teams are encouraged to bring their own filtration devices.
- For participants who are tasked with maintaining the water filtration system at camp should wash their hands before doing so, wear a mask and sanitize the handles and spigots of the water system.
 - Water bottles should not touch the water filling spigots
 - Spigot handles should be sanitized regularly

○ End of Each Day or Trip

- Handwashing stations, hand sanitizer or wipes should be used to clean hands, arms and face as needed.
- Multi-day tools will be stored at the Packing Facility or in crew leader’s vehicles between trips.

External Resources

- [CDC Guidelines](#) on coronavirus symptoms
- [WA Governor Outdoor Recreation Guidelines](#)