

# COVID-19 Guidelines for Volunteers



This document contains the special policies and procedures that ITA has implemented to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to our staff, volunteers, contractors, and the general public. Please review and follow these procedures carefully.

The following policies apply to all participants in ITA field projects, with special requirements during multi-day projects. Crew Leaders should be familiar with and perform these tasks and convey this information to all project participants.

***Please note: If you are fully vaccinated (by CDC definition), per CDC direction, you may disregard requirements below. You can find CDC direction here: [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated | CDC](#) Please continue to practice good hygiene and social distancing where possible. Thank you!***

## ALL FIELD PROJECTS

***Volunteer screening checklist.*** The day before a project, each person will complete the COVID-19 Screening Checklist (see below). If fully vaccinated, just let your crew leader know; no need to go through these questions. Any unvaccinated person who answers yes to any of the COVID-19 screening criteria will not be allowed to participate in the project. In addition, those who are considered at high-risk from COVID-19 (underlying health condition) may want to reconsider participating if their healthcare provider has advised them to be cautious regardless of if they are vaccinated or not.

### COVID-19 Screening Checklist

- Within the past 14 days, have you (or someone you closely associated with) experienced any of these symptoms:
  - A new fever (100.4°F or higher), or felt like you had a fever
  - A new cough that is not because of another illness
  - A new shortness of breath that is not because of another illness
  - A new sore throat that is not because of another illness
  - Sore muscles not because of existing illness, or not from exercise or injury
- Were you (or someone you closely associated with) diagnosed with COVID-19?
- Were you (or someone you closely associated with) exposed to someone known to be infected with COVID-19?

***Travel individually*** or with people you reside with to the trailhead. Do not carpool with others unless you are fully vaccinated.

***Maintain physical distancing*** of ten feet while working and at least six feet at all other times.

***Wear face coverings in any place where you group up***, such as in camp.

***Practice good hand hygiene.***

***Cover coughs and sneezes.***

***Bring your own gloves and safety glasses.*** If you do not have these items, ITA will provide them.

**Use the same tool as much as possible during the workday.** If exchanging tools, disinfect them.

**Disinfect** surfaces, tools, PPE, and other objects each day.

**Immediately report any symptoms** or health concerns to the Crew Leader.

### **MULI-DAY PROJECTS (in addition to the procedures above)**

**Monitor others daily.** At the beginning of each workday on a multi-day project, check in with others, see if anyone has a cough, an issue with breathing, or feels bad in any way. If someone says yes, take his or her temperature. Anyone with a temperature above 100.4°F should be evacuated.

**Ensure that the group has a COVID-19 Kit (contents listed below)** at the campsite.

**Separate each tent** from others by at least 20’.

**Disinfect shared toilets** after each use

### **HOW TO DISINFECT**

If hands or surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using soap and water prior to disinfection with alcohol. Soap and water are still the best method of disinfecting for COVID-19. Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective for cleaning tools, equipment, etc. Use Clorox wipes or disinfectant spray; ITA will also provide bottles of sanitizer or alcohol to be used for tools and equipment, if needed.

### **TRIP PROTOCOLS FOR SUSPECTED ILLNESS**

If a member of the project shows signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they will be checked out by the highest medically trained person on the project, very possibly the crew leader. The patient will be required to wear a facemask at all times and be separated from the rest of the crew. If a fever, cough or other positive symptoms are present the work will stop and everyone will get ready to head out to the trailhead and head home. The patient will be transported to the nearest medical facility to be tested. All participants will be treated as if they have been exposed to COVID-19 and follow current guidelines from the CDC (CDC does not recommend isolation/quarantine for fully vaccinated people). The appropriate agency contact for the project (dispatch or the local ranger district) will be informed of the situation, including follow up after the patient is tested for COVID-19.

### **COVID-19 EQUIPMENT LIST (COVID KIT)**

This equipment should accompany every ITA project, both one-day and multi-day and each volunteer is expected to know and follow these directions.

- Full pack(s) of sanitizing wipes
- 4 fl oz bottles of hand sanitizer (issue one per crew volunteer)
- 2 kitchen-sized trash bags for wipes, gloves, etc.
- Four large (gallon) ziplock bags
- Disposable nitrile gloves, multiple sizes
- Facemasks (for unvaccinated volunteers)