



## 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 **April 8, 2021** to reflect WA state Governor Jay Inslee's "Roadmap to Recovery" plan.

### Key Elements of WTA's Safety Protocols on All Events

- **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 must be worn when within at least 6 feet of others.
- **Social distancing** - All participants must maintain at least 6 feet of space between individuals at all times. Participants will be assigned specific tasks and locations on trail to facilitate and maintain safe distances while working. **Note:** If safe distancing is unable to be maintained based on the type of project, participants should limit the time of exposure in close contact and alternate tasks frequently.
- **Set up, cleaning and disinfecting guidance for equipment** – During phases 1 & 2, participants will not be allowed to share tools and equipment on events unless properly sanitized between users. Phase 3 allows for WTA participants to share tools and equipment between users during events without sanitization. For all phases, tools and equipment must be rinsed with water (to remove soil/dirt) and wiped down with disinfectant spray by the crew at the end of each day.
- **Signage & passing distance** - Proper signage and flagging will be used to alert hikers to trail maintenance activities. Trail maintenance crews must step off trail to allow hikers to pass while maintaining 6 feet of distance.
- **Handwashing OR hand sanitizer stations** - All group events will include a foot-pump-operated handwashing station with soap and water for participants to use (staged at vehicles) or hand sanitizer station. While on trail, WTA crew leaders will carry and make hand sanitizer available.
- **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 social distancing needs to be broken to respond to an injured participant, steps should be taken to minimize amount of individuals responding to the incident. 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.

- **“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.

### Regional Risk Assessment Phases

**Note:** As part of WA state Gov. Inslee’s “Roadmap to Recovery” plan, the process to assess statewide risk has altered from a county phasing approach to a regional one as portrayed below. As such, we have adapted our protocols to reflect these changes across the two phases currently designated by the Governor utilizing guidance provided for outdoor recreation activities. At this time, all of our WTA guidelines have been adapted to apply across both phases with no variances between the two. WTA’s Senior Field Manager of Operations will review on a weekly basis if there is updated guidance from the Governor to assess for any changes to our protocols and events and will consult with our physician’s advisor as needed. Alterations to events may also occur at the discretion of our land manager partners.

REGION	EAST	SOUTH CENTRAL	NORTH CENTRAL	NORTH WEST	SOUTH WEST	WEST	NORTH	PUGET SOUND
COUNTY	Adams Asotin Ferry Garfield Lincoln Pend Oreille Spokane Stevens Whitman	Benton Columbia Franklin Kittitas Walla Walla Yakima	Chelan Douglas Grant Okanogan	Clallam Jefferson Kitsap Mason	Clark Cowlitz Klickitat Skamania Wahkiakum	Grays Harbor Lewis Pacific Thurston	Island San Juan Skagit Whatcom	King Pierce Snohomish

### Additional WTA Guidelines

- **Group size limits based on phasing protocols** – Phases 1 & 2 return to group sizes of 12 participants maximum, including the crew leader.
  - BCRT multi-day trips are limited to group sizes of 12 and based on size of camp and ability to maintain proper social distancing.
  - In 2021, volunteer vacations will be limited to 8 person crews at the start of the season with possible modifications to be determined as the season progresses.
  - **Phase 3: 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 for a short period is permitted if it is needed to move participants from the work party meeting location to the trailhead or project site. Utilize the following protocols when carpooling:
  - Must wear face covering at all times to limit close contact exposure
  - 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

**Note:** While encouraged for those in the same household, WTA will continue to pause on promoting the carpooling feature on our events for participants until further notice.

- **For Sawyers and Logout Projects** – Double bucking crosscut sawing is prohibited except by members of a single household. Single bucking crosscut sawing and power sawing are allowed if social distancing is maintained.
- **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"> <li>• Handwashing or hand sanitizer station</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) – # of bottles may vary by trip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra disposable gloves and surgical masks for First Aid Kits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long handled scrub brush for tools (not required for backcountry trips)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New, un-used work gloves for back-up; participants provide their own, no sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanitization wipes and/or sanitization spray with paper towels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean hardhats (must be sanitized between use)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear face mask (to communicate with participants who are hard of hearing or hearing impaired)</li> </ul>

### COVID-19 Guidelines for Multi-Day Trips

- **Camp Location Selection**
  - Must be large enough to accommodate social distancing requirements 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 10ft. apart from each other and 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 own 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.
  - 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.
    - Participants will keep their tools at their tent site - on the ground, behind the tent, not in front of a vestibule. Practice proper sanitization protocols when exchanging or switching tools between users.
    - Multi-day tools will be stored at the Packing Facility or in crew leaders' vehicles between trips. All tools must be sanitized before loading them into a truck at the end of a trip.
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### **External Resources**

- [CDC Guidelines on coronavirus symptoms](#)
- [WA Governor Outdoor Recreation Guidelines](#)
  - [Mask Cover Mandate](#)
- [OSHA Guidelines classifying risk of worker exposure to COVID-19.](#)
  - **Note:** We believe that WTA staff and volunteers fall under the "Lower Exposure Risk" category and we follow general OSHA guidelines to help prevent staff and volunteer exposure to COVID-19.
- [CDC Guidance on Cleaning & Disinfection for Coronavirus](#)
- [EPA List of Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)
- [US Dept of Labor - OSHA COVID-19 Control & Prevention Guidelines](#)