



Responses to the Covid-19 Corona Virus Pandemic

Guidelines, Tips, and Suggestions for the Wilderness Stewardship Community

As of 3.26.2020

We hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe, practicing social distancing, washing hands and implementing other steps to limit the spread of Covid-19 and avoid contracting the virus yourself.

This is a time of unparalleled uncertainty and disruption to our normal lives. State and national directives are creating unforeseen constraints on planning for the upcoming field season, recruitment, and daily operations of wilderness stewardship organizations, employees and volunteers.

The following informational websites have been assembled from a variety of sources in the medical and environmental community. They contain guidelines, suggestions, and tips to incorporate into your lives. We hope that they may help you as you plan the next few months.

Information and Websites:

Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

American Trails: <https://www.americantrails.org/resources/what-coronavirus-means-for-outdoor-recreation>

LNT <https://lnt.org/the-leave-no-trace-recommendations-for-getting-outside-amidst-covid-19/>

American Alpine Club: <https://americanalpineclub.org/news/2020/3/17/climbers-take-action-against-coronavirus>

The Partnership for the National Trails System: <https://default.salsalabs.org/Tbcae6ba6-86ca-4866-aeb5-3455cc2f0113/f303122d-8717-42d7-9688-abd2d1df8773>

Outdoor Industry Alliance Covid-19 Resource Hub: https://outdoorindustry.org/covid-19-resources-outdoor-industry/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=covid19

Public Land Alliance Resource Page: <https://www.publiclandsalliance.org/what-we-do/education/coronavirus>

Personal Practices to Avoid Infection Spread:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Practice social distancing of at least 6 ft
- Stay home, especially if sick
- Cover your cough with tissue or elbow
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces often
- Get immediate medical care if warranted



Practices for Wilderness Stewardship Organizations

Federal, State, and local governments are issuing orders daily to help prevent the spread of the corona virus. Many places are requesting or demanding shelter at home to keep the rate of new infections from growing beyond the capability of local medical resources to respond to critical needs. Wilderness Stewardship organizations need to do our part in this community wide effort to keep the public healthy and the pandemic contained.

Things Wilderness Stewardship Groups can do:

Public Facing:

- Be proactive with your volunteers and local community about the need to shelter at home, avoid unnecessary travel, avoid contact with others during this critical phase of virus containment.
- Cancel or postpone field events and activities until such time as gatherings of 10 or more people are allowed.
- Remind your community of the importance of stewardship for protecting public lands but that for the immediate future wilderness stewardship actions that are essential to maintain and provide current wilderness experiences are on hold. All users should practice appropriate Leave No Trace practices when outdoors, as well as maintain social distancing standards.
- Encourage outdoor recreation in “local backyard areas”, close to home where travel is limited
- Encourage outdoor skill building while people are confined, such as learning LNT, using map and compass, star gazing, and outdoor cooking in their backyards and patios.

Inward Facing:

The critical need is to contain and decrease the spread of COVID-19 while reducing it’s impact in your workplace. The leys are reducing transmission among employees, maintain healthy business operations, and maintain a healthy work environment.

- Allow employees flexibility to work from home, or stay home if sick.
- Keep sick employees at home and away from the workplace.
- Provide the ability for employees to care for sick family members.
- Identify potential points of infection in your workplace and take steps to prevent them.
- Educate all employees on the ways they can avoid infection and its spread
- Survey your workplace for potential virus incubators and clean and disinfect objects and surfaces.
- Practice social distancing in the workplace and avoid using other’s desks, equipment and phones.
- Avoid or cancel all travel.
- Avoid unnecessary contact in person with others outside your organization.
- Reduce the number of meetings and employee gatherings, and if such a gathering is necessary, practice social distancing by meeting outdoors with enough space between participants



Organizations also face uncertainty during this time about real-world issues like employee payments, cash flow, fundraising, and purchasing. These are some suggestions to ease the burden that slowing of operations may bring:

- Be prepared to change your business practices if needed to maintain critical operations (e.g., identify alternative suppliers, prioritize existing customers, or temporarily suspend some of your operations if needed).
- Identify alternate supply chains for critical goods and services. Some goods and services may be in higher demand or unavailable.
- Talk with organizations that provide your business with work crews or seasonal employees about the importance of sick employees staying home and encourage them to develop non-punitive leave policies.
- Talk with business partners and funders about your response plans. Share best practices with other organizations in your communities to improve community response efforts. Let funders know what the impacts of the virus are upon your operations and seek joint solutions for the future.

Social distancing strategies include:

- Implementing flexible worksites (e.g., telework)
- Implementing flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts)
- Increasing physical space between employees at the worksite
- Increasing physical space between employees and customers (e.g., drive through, partitions)
- Implementing flexible meeting and travel options (e.g., postpone non-essential meetings or events)
- Downsizing operations
- Delivering services remotely (e.g. phone, video, or web)
- Delivering products through curbside pick-up or delivery

Suggested actions for field crews:

- Daily health checks – temperature readings, assessment of conditions, signs and symptoms – if in doubt, separate employees that feel the least bit sick
- Travel in separate vehicles to the job site where practical
- Practice social distancing for breaks and meals
- Do not mix tools but assign equipment and tools for the duration of the season
- Disinfect and clean any equipment or tools that must be transferred between employees

Suggested actions for offices:

- Increase or improve ventilation in your offices
- Disinfect common area surfaces daily or as used
- Clean door knobs, phones, keyboards, and computer mice frequently



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- Provide hand sanitizer, tissues, hand cleanser, and cleaning products for employee use
- Institute visitor contact protocols if you allow the public to access your offices