COVID-19 GUIDELINES for IN-PERSON FIELD PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

We hope you understand that we must follow extra precautions to ensure the safety of our staff, volunteers, communities, and partners. To maximize protection against COVID-19 and its many variants, we will be requesting proof of current vaccination to attend any Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC)-led volunteer project, training, or events (collectively, In-Person Field Programs). We ask volunteers to remain vigilant in following all Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and complying with regionally issued government orders. The purpose of this document is to provide CDTC volunteers with guidelines to ensure a productive, positive, and safe work environment while working with CDTC in the field.

All participants, volunteers, and crew leaders are expected to have reviewed the most current COVID-19 and related guidance at the time of the In-Person Field Program. This guidance is subject to change as the guidelines set forth by state and local government officials and public health departments continue to evolve.

When registering for an In-Person Field Program, and again on the day of, the participant must answer “no” to the following question:

1. According to the CDC, have you had recent COVID-19 symptoms or exposure that indicates you should not be around others?

Participants who answer yes to this question may not participate in an In-Person Field Program to protect the health of other participants. The CDTC expects all participants to abide by the honor system and to present proof of current vaccination status as a part of participation in the CDTC’s In-Person Field Programs.

GUIDANCE FOR IN-PERSON FIELD PROGRAMS

This includes any training, project, or event, including community stewardship events.

- Advanced registration is required to attend multi-day Trail Work Projects and CDTC Adopter Trainings. We will request proof of vaccination prior to the beginning of the event.
- Advanced registration is not required for Community Stewardship Events but we will request proof of vaccination day-of.
- Everyone must comply with mandatory state and local public health guidelines, and rules, and regulations made by businesses and federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial agencies for the area where the program occurs, including, but not limited to, wearing face masks and requiring/verifying COVID-19 vaccines. Face masks are recommended for all public indoor places.
- Medical or religious exemption forms may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if reasonable accommodations can be made. If in CDTC’s sole discretion, no reasonable accommodation can be made, CDTC reserves the right to deny participation.

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1 Public indoor spaces are defined as any space where access is not limited to a defined group and/or where it is not possible to limit access to those individuals whose vaccination status is not known.
VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES

Before Event

Registered volunteers are requested to email their vaccine card to Kylie Yang, Field Programs Manager, at (kyang@continentaldividetrail.org) or upload a photo of their vaccine card at the link below with the file name changed to your LastName.FirstName: https://www.dropbox.com/request/8sswDZjgdiw1GaQzBc4p

- FOOD - For the majority of CDTC projects and trainings, volunteers will be asked to bring all their own food, snacks, and cook set (this includes stove, gas, pots, pans, utensils for overnight trips, etc.). Check each event description for details on if food is or is not provided.
- CARPOOLING - Carpooling is not recommended unless you are traveling with people from the same household or if volunteers are fully vaccinated and wearing masks.
- HEALTH SURVEY - One week before the beginning of the project CDTC will send out a COVID-19 Screening Survey that all volunteers are requested to fill out before the project start date.

During Project

- YOUR HEALTH, FIRST - You are responsible for monitoring your own health and alerting CDTC field staff of any COVID-19 symptoms you may be experiencing. If you begin to show symptoms of COVID-19 you will be monitored until you can be taken out of the field or take yourself out of the field as soon as possible and seek medical care and COVID-19 testing.
- HYGIENE - CDTC staff will provide handwashing stations and will encourage a clean basecamp. Volunteers are asked to practice good hygiene during every project and training. For events that provide food, our Crew Chefs may request additional hygiene precautions be made by participants.
- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - Volunteers are required to bring their own face masks and it is recommended volunteers bring their own work gloves. Volunteers should not share work gloves, hardhats, or eye protection (ex. sunglasses) at anytime and should keep the same PPE for the duration of the project.
- EXTRA SUPPLIES VOLUNTEERS SHOULD PACK FOR COVID-19 MITIGATION - Personal hand sanitizer, face masks, personal toiletries, and any other items that will make them feel safe and comfortable in backcountry or frontcountry settings.

Post Project

If volunteers test positive for COVID-19 following their participation in the project they must notify CDTC Field Programs staff so we can communicate to other volunteers who may have been in close contact. However, although CDTC may help facilitate communications, CDTC does not assume the responsibility or duty of care in conducting COVID-19 contact tracing.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can CDTC ask to see a participant’s COVID-19 vaccine card at any time to confirm their participation on a trip?

Yes, CDTC chooses to request proof of COVID-19 vaccinations to participate in any event. This will be implemented through verification of current vaccination status in keeping with the honor system. Anyone found misrepresenting their vaccination status will be removed from the program roster.

Requesting proof of vaccination does not violate privacy laws. This expectation is clearly stated on the Volunteer Page and applies to all In-Person Field Programs. CDTC may ask to see vaccine verification in advance of the activity or at the start of the activity.

Are there any exemptions for vaccine-requested projects or trainings?

Maybe. Medical or religious exemption forms may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if reasonable accommodations can be made. If in the CDTC’s sole discretion, no reasonable accommodation can be made, the CDTC reserves the right to deny participation.

What is the guidance for carpooling to/from CDTC events?

If you choose to carpool during the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage individuals to follow current CDC recommendations for activities and gatherings and travel.

What will happen if someone develops COVID-19 symptoms during or after the event?

As a CDTC Field Instructor or leader, it is important to protect everyone on the trip as best they can, while also showing compassion for the participant who is sick. Our leaders will not jump to a conclusion – as there are other illnesses (like the common cold or flu) that may have similar symptoms to how COVID-19 presents in some individuals.

- The Field Instructors will end the trip and everyone will return home safely. Unless the sick person is so feverish they are incapacitated, this is not a medical emergency. Field Instructors and volunteers will avoid adding risk to the situation.
- Field Instructors will support the sick individual the best they can and wear appropriate PPE.
- If the sick individual is coughing or sneezing, they will be encouraged to wear a face mask, along with all other participants.
- Before departing, all participants will be asked to notify CDTC staff if they test positive for COVID-19. Staff and volunteers should follow the precautions recommended by the CDC. We will protect confidentiality as much as possible. The sooner CDTC staff know and can reach out directly to participants, the more we can protect participants by reducing confusion.

What should you do if you contract COVID-19 after attending a CDTC In-Person Field Program?
If you have tested positive for COVID-19, below lists the appropriate actions to take.

1. Review your state or local health department recommendations and follow their guidance.
2. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and have participated in a CDTC In-Person Field Program in the last 10 days, feel free to notify our staff so that we can take appropriate actions. Although CDTC may help facilitate communications, CDTC does not assume the responsibility or duty of care in conducting COVID-19 contact tracing.

Our goal is to support you, protect your privacy, and reduce the risk to our community. It will be helpful for us to know things like when you started feeling sick when you tested positive, and what specific CDTC Field Programs activities you participated in over the past 10 days. It will also help us to know if you have any specific concerns we can help address.

What to do if you have close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19?

If you have close contact (within 6 feet for 15 cumulative minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, see the below-listed actions. People who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 after they completed at least 5 days of isolation are not considered close contacts.


The CDC’s definition of “exposure” is irrespective of whether the person with COVID-19 or the contact was wearing a face mask, whether the contact was wearing respiratory PPE, and/or whether the exposure was indoors or outdoors.