

## **OLWC COVID-19 Field Work Plan (Updated May 2021)**

Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC) prioritizes the safety of our community, including staff, volunteers, board members, contractors, interns, landowners, partners, and community members. This plan lays out the protocols that will be implemented in response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis in Oregon. This plan will be updated regularly in response to recommendations and requirements from the State of Oregon, Clackamas County, Center for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization. All staff, interns, and volunteers working as a representative of OLWC while conducting group work are expected to understand and follow these guidelines.

### **Fieldwork Plan Goals:**

- Reduce the risk of virus transmission among employees, volunteers, and our community
- Maintain normal operations when safe to do so
- Provide safe opportunities for community enhancement, outdoor experiences, and hands-on project work

### **Context:**

OLWC's COVID-19 plan is focused on fieldwork because OLWC does not have office space. The majority of interactions within the organization occur outdoors or remotely. The current understanding of COVID-19 transmission indicates that the virus transmission rates are highest in indoor settings, and/or when people are interacting with each other in close proximity for extended periods of time. While there is an inherent risk with any social and physical activities during a pandemic, this plan aims to minimize the risk of virus transmission while allowing for the watershed council to continue our operations when safe to do so.

This fieldwork plan is designed for small group projects conducted by staff, interns, volunteers, and/or board members. At this time, OLWC has resumed hosting publicly advertised volunteer events. The resumption of public volunteer events was decided by the OLWC staff and board, in consultation with public health organizations, and partner organizations who have already resumed public, group volunteer events.

### **Before Field Work:**

- Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (which include fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell) or who have been exposed to someone with a confirmed or likely case of COVID-19 is asked to not participate in group fieldwork until they are cleared to be around other people by a medical provider (generally after they have had a negative COVID-19 test), or, if they did not seek medical attention, have had no symptoms for at least 2 weeks.
- If the crew lead for fieldwork shows symptoms of concern, they will identify another staff or trained volunteer to lead the fieldwork and/or cancel the fieldwork.
- Group size for outdoor events to be kept at a limited number of participants, including volunteers, interns, staff, and staff of partner organizations - group size caps will be determined based off of Clackamas county risk level and guidance, which is updated

regularly at <https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/reopening>. At the discretion of staff/project leaders, an event size limit can also be set at a level lower than the requirement.

- Carpools will generally be unavailable for staff and interns
  - All staff and interns are expected to transport themselves to work sites. Members of the same household are permitted to travel together.
- Once at the worksite, staff and interns should avoid travel in vehicles together to access different areas of the site, or travel to different sites, unless they are members of the same household.

### **Field Work Protocols:**

- Physical distancing of no less than 6 feet will take place during all work tasks and breaks when masks are not worn.
- Tasks will be planned and assigned in a manner that maximizes physical distancing, while avoiding fully independent work for other safety reasons.
- Face coverings should be kept in an accessible place while conducting fieldwork, and will be provided by OLWC as needed.
- When interacting with landowners or members of the public, face-covering should be worn. Face covering should be worn when in close proximity of other crew members. It is generally recommended that face coverings be worn if staff and/ or volunteers are working on a project within 12 ft of someone outside of their household.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often or use hand sanitizer. Hand wash or hand sanitize before and after breaks and lunch. Avoid sharing food and drinks.
- Personal gear (gloves, safety equipment, water bottles, masks), is not to be shared throughout a workday.
- When possible, staff, interns, and volunteers bring and use their own gloves.
- Any shared items used during fieldwork that were handled by multiple people will be cleaned and disinfected if deemed necessary before being used again. The CDC provides extensive guidelines on cleaning and disinfection practices here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- Be proactive – if you see a fellow crew member not following these protocols, bring it to their attention. If crew members are ignoring protocols, notify your supervisor.

### **Additional guidelines for Public Volunteer Events:**

- All public event participants are expected to comply with OLWC mask requirements, regardless of vaccination status. This may change in the future as CDC and State guidelines continue to evolve.
- Preregistration will be required to ensure group size limits are not exceeded
- Waivers should be printed and signed before the event, and collected at the event. Online waivers can also be used
- If a pre-registered volunteer does not bring a waiver, they will be provided a sanitized pen and blank waiver to fill out

- Volunteers will be encouraged to bring their own tools and gloves
- If volunteers do not have tools and gloves, these will be provided by OLWC
- These COVID guidelines will be communicated to volunteers verbally at each event

If anyone contracts COVID 19 and has been in contact with other staff, interns or volunteers, they should notify the Watershed Coordinator. The Watershed Coordinator will inform appropriate staff, interns, and volunteers that they may have been close to someone with COVID 19. Information will be handled with discretion to the full extent public health guidance permits. Signing a Volunteer Event Waiver agreeing to adhere by OLWC guidelines can be done in lieu of signing the full Covid fieldwork plan. By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read the OLWC COVID-19 Field Work Guidelines and understand them. I agree to follow these guidelines when working with OLWC.

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Printed Name

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Signed Name

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Date