



OARS COVID-19 GENERAL MITIGATION PLAN

Specific plans will vary by region

Updated: August 2, 2021

RISK ASSESSMENT

We are not out of the woods yet. A few months into our second season of operating during the pandemic, we know COVID-19 is highly contagious, with evidence that pre-symptomatic people are able to pass the virus before knowing they are sick. Then, there is also a percentage of cases confirmed in people who are asymptomatic. Therefore, it's difficult to prevent participation from carriers of the virus if the individual guests or employees don't know they're sick, yet are still potentially contagious.

So accepting this shortcoming in mitigation planning as a given, we have to consider the question of risk acceptance. To begin, we note that adventure travel outfitters, and our guests who sign up for a trip with us, may have a higher tolerance for risk than the general public. Running wild rivers or hiking on remote trails means purposefully taking part in an activity that can result in serious injury or death. These are our inherent risks, and we pursue these untamed environments precisely because of the thrilling rewards that these activities provide.

Further, we assume that because there is risk of contracting the virus during activities like visiting the grocery store, eating out at a restaurant, or getting a haircut, many people are completely comfortable with, and have been longing for, an outdoor adventure where fresh air is abundant and physical distance can be maintained in most circumstances.

In our current outlook, which observes increasing rates of vaccination in the U.S., our ability to maintain small group sizes, and evidence that outdoor transmission of the virus is very rare, we believe that our mitigation plan—which includes pre-screening protocols, sanitation procedures, face coverings in enclosed spaces, and measures to maintain as much physical distance as possible—charts a reasonable path forward to operating group outdoor adventures during the pandemic.

EXPECTATIONS

We expect all guides, staff, and guests to be familiar with and follow the guidance provided by state and local authorities for mitigating the spread of COVID-19. ***And, while we are strongly encouraging guides and guests to get vaccinated for COVID-19, we know not everyone, including kids under 12, has that option currently. However, due to the shared nature of our accommodations at Phantom Ranch, we are requiring all guides and guests to be vaccinated in order to join us on our Grand Canyon Rim to Rim and Rim to River hiking trips this year.*** Leading up to your trip, it is still critical that you exercise extra caution to reduce your risk of exposure to anyone who could be infected with COVID-19 and that

you monitor yourself and your family for any symptoms. If you are sick, be conservative in your approach. Think of the greater community. The wilderness is a harsh place to feel sick, let alone being sick with a potentially life-threatening disease. Evacuation may not be an option. Prudent measures are necessary to minimize risks to everyone.

Additionally, we expect the following:

- Inform us of any COVID-19 symptoms you/your family experience before, during, or after your trip or if you have tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days prior to your trip or within 5 days after the final day of your OARS trip
- All guests must supply their own hand sanitizer and face coverings
- A symptom check will be required before anyone is allowed into the meeting area for your trip and on a daily basis on multi-day trips
- Be mindful of the physical distance (>6 feet) that other people who are not part of your household or with whom you did not travel to the meeting place for your trip (your travel unit) may wish to maintain
- A properly-worn face covering will be required any time you enter an enclosed space
- Frequent & thorough hygiene practices like hand washing and reducing or eliminating shared items
- Parents are responsible for ensuring their children adhere to physical distancing and all other mitigation procedures while on the trip

GUEST SCREENING & COMMUNICATION

Sixty+ days before the trip (or at the time of booking if within 60 days), you will receive an email outlining expectations for the trip and an overview of our enhanced screening process.

Fourteen days before the start of the trip, you will receive a reminder email with information on how to prepare for your trip, including monitoring for symptoms, and what to expect when you arrive.

Upon arrival all guests will be asked to answer the following questions:

1. Within the last 14 days, have you experienced any of the following symptoms that you cannot attribute to another health condition?
 - a. A fever or a sense of having a fever
 - b. Cough
 - c. Shortness of breath
 - d. Sore throat
 - e. Muscle aches
 - f. Loss of taste or smell
2. Within the last 14 days, have you been in contact with an individual who has been ill with flu-like symptoms, respiratory complaints or fever, or who you know has tested positive for COVID-19? *Exception details listed below.
3. Within the last 30 days, have you tested positive for COVID-19? If “yes”, on what date were you notified you were no longer contagious?

If you answer “yes” to questions 1 or 2, you will not be permitted to join the trip. Instead, we will provide a partial credit toward a future trip for you and any members of your travel unit who were living at the

same physical address during any of the seven days prior to the trip and/or traveled in the same vehicle to the meeting location.

*Exception for a positive response to question two: frontline healthcare workers who have been vaccinated and are taking necessary precautions will be permitted to join as long as all other conditions are met. Please call us to discuss ASAP.

The decision to allow a guest who, within the last 30 days, tested positive for COVID-19 on a trip may be based on: the absence of symptoms for at least 10 days, a negative test and/or clearance from a physician stating that the guest is healthy and not contagious.

Screening While on Multi-Day Trips

- Daily review of symptoms

GUESTS UPON ARRIVAL

- Please follow all posted signs and park accordingly
- Keep any personal items with you or stored in your vehicle
- When you get to the meeting area, please either wash your hands or use hand sanitizer, depending upon which has been provided
- Be mindful of the physical distance (>6 feet) that others outside of your travel unit may wish to maintain
- A properly-worn face covering will be required any time you enter an enclosed space
- Check in will occur outside at a table set up with hand sanitizer and/or hand wash system
- A staff member will ask a series of screening questions (see above)
- If you answer “yes” to any questions, we reserve the right to not allow you, or your immediate traveling party, to travel with us and offer a partial credit toward a future trip instead
- All guests will be required to pass the COVID-19 symptom screening process before being able to join the meeting/safety talk

WEARING A FACE COVERING OR MASK

Face coverings are required while riding in shuttle vehicles and in enclosed spaces, but they are not required while outside during your river trip.

- All guests must supply their own face coverings.

TRANSPORTATION

- All employees and guests are advised to sanitize hands (or wash hands when possible) and will put on a face covering prior to getting into any vehicle, including planes and helicopters where applicable, and keep it in place for the duration of travel
- Windows will be opened whenever possible, however, some busses are equipped with windows that do not open
- The air conditioner/heater will not be used in recirculating mode
- Vehicles will be cleaned and sanitized after each time they are used to carry passengers

HAND WASHING ON THE RIVER

In addition to convenient locations for two to three foot pump-operated hand wash stations at every camp, along with a heavy emphasis on their required use, we also bring a supply of hand sanitizer on every trip.

- The soap and water hand wash system will be set-up first when arriving in camp and will remain available for the duration of the stop.
- Hand wash water sourced from the river will be treated with bleach (or similar) to 100ppm.
- Handwashing stations will be set up at the entrance to toilet facilities,, and near the communal or group area (within 25 feet, or in the most convenient and obvious location).
- Additionally, each boat or guide will be equipped with hand soap and/or hand sanitizer.

FOOD SERVICE PROTOCOLS

When packing, preparing, or otherwise handling food or beverages, staff will adhere to applicable local, state, and federal food handling requirements. At camp, no congregation will be allowed in the kitchen. All prepping surfaces will be disinfected with wipes or disinfectant spray pre and post prep. There will be special attention and enhanced efforts of sanitation during the food pack, while preparing food during a trip, and while serving guests. Generally, guests will not be allowed to serve their own meals.

POST-TRIP GEAR CLEANING PROCEDURES

- Tents and sleeping pads will be sanitized and/or cycled out of use for 24 hours between trips
- Dry bags are washed and sanitized between trips
- Sleeping bags, sleeping bag liners, and pillow cases will be laundered after every trip
- PFDs, helmets, paddles, wetsuits, and splash jackets are to be washed and sanitized after each trip and hung to dry outside

PATIENT CARE & MANAGEMENT FOR GUEST OR STAFF WITH POSITIVE SYMPTOMS

- The symptomatic person will immediately be physically distanced (at least six feet) from others and required to wear a mask for the remainder of the trip
- Family members and friends who were traveling with the person who displayed positive symptoms will also be placed on a separate raft and required to wear a face covering
- Temperature and pulse oximeter (when available) testing will be increased to twice daily
- We will consult with local agencies on availability and justification for evacuation. If this is not feasible, they will be isolated from others for the remainder of the trip
- One liaison (guide or a family member/traveling companion) will be identified to interface with this person to provide care. That person will also be physically distanced from the rest of the group for the remainder of the trip
 - While treating someone on the trip who is symptomatic, liaison will wear PPE:
 - Gown—either a painters suit or splash pants paired with a splash top
 - Goggles/face shield
 - N95 Mask
 - Gloves
- We will follow EMS/WFR protocols and provide appropriate medical treatment—monitoring temperature, oxygen saturation with pulse oximeter if available, and vital signs
- Testing for COVID-19 will be performed at the earliest opportunity and OARS will notify the appropriate agencies along with all crew and other travelers on the trip of the results. Confidentiality will be maintained by using generic terms to describe a “traveler” or “participant” who has a confirmed (negative or positive) test

TRIP COVID-19 PPE KIT

Each trip will carry a COVID-19 PPE Kit, this kit contains resources to be used in an incident where there is someone showing signs and symptoms that could possibly be COVID-19.

MANAGEMENT OF GUIDES WHO HAVE BEEN ON A TRIP WITH A SUSPECTED POSITIVE CASE

If a guide or staff member has been on a trip with a suspected or confirmed positive case, they may be asked to follow a 14-day quarantine period. We will follow the direction of the CDC and the local health department based on the individuals involved and the circumstances of the exposure.

EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATION & EVALUATION

We will inform all staff of this plan and re-evaluate and update as needed

All employees need to practice and commit to the best practices of hygiene, and are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. In cases where employees think or know they have been exposed to COVID-19, employees should contact their doctor or other medical professional immediately for guidance and avoid work and any public places. Employees are required to report to their manager if they have been exposed or think they have been exposed to COVID-19, are experiencing symptoms, or have been diagnosed.

GENERAL WAREHOUSE GUIDELINES & ACTIONS

- We advise all staff to wash their hands upon entering the building, in between tasks, and following current CDC guidelines
- High-contact and frequently-used surfaces will be cleaned regularly
- Signage reminding employees and guests of expected practices and behavior will be frequently reviewed
- Employee training on these practices will be reviewed and updated as necessary

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Information and training are at the heart of infectious disease planning and containment. Our goal is to ensure employee comprehension and understanding of how employees may be exposed to infectious disease, what their responsibilities are, and what protective measures they can take. All training will be documented and will include all elements of the OARS COVID-19 Mitigation Plan.

SCREENING EMPLOYEES

Every day, before work, each employee must answer the same questions about symptoms as guests. This will be done verbally by a member of the management team or a Trip Leader. If an employee answers yes to any of the screening questions, the screener will immediately activate the response protocol for COVID-19.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Please be aware of your potential impacts on the small communities you may travel through on your trip. The same measures we take to minimize the spread of the novel coronavirus on our trips need to also take place while traveling. Physical distancing, using a face covering when you're close to others outside of your travel unit, avoiding crowded places like restaurants & bars, and not traveling at all if you have symptoms are important elements of this plan. An outbreak in a small community could end your river trip and work for our employees—but more importantly it could be devastating for that community.

