



## **COVID-19**

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

## **PROTOCOLS**

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## **FIELD MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

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### **2022 MCC Field Operations**

### **COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies**

Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) is closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 throughout the country. As an organization we believe it is critical to protect and support our communities at a local, state, and national level while simultaneously ensuring the safety and well-being of our participants. This document is intended to provide an overview of protocols and policies currently in place to mitigate exposure to and the spread of COVID-19. This document does not include all measures that may be taken by MCC and will be updated and/or revised as associated data for COVID-19 changes. These protocols are specific to MCC's program

design, structure and mission. **This version is based on information available as of February 1, 2022.**

**Following the CDC guidance for responding to COVID-19, we base our program protocols on the following mitigation strategies:**

- Perform daily health and symptom checks
- Stagger and regulate number of people in one space (regional offices, basecamps)
- Ensure staff and members perform personal protective measures (handwashing, masks, behaviors)
- Use masks in vehicles and in office spaces.
- Plan for possible outbreaks and provide COVID-19 emergency evacuation procedures for every hitch.
- Plan for isolation/quarantine spaces for members.

For the purposes of this document, “member” refers to all of those involved with MCC: crew members and leaders, IPP interns and fellows, and youth participants.

### **Individual Member - COVID-19 Mitigation Tasks**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Sneeze or cough into your elbow.
- Use masks when traveling in vehicles or in MCC office spaces.

### **Training**

- Prior to training events individuals that have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, will take a rapid test.
- Discussion spaces will be held outdoors when possible, when not, we will provide adequate space between individuals and proper ventilation/air flow.
- Masks are required for trainings in indoor spaces.

### **MCC Members in Public Spaces**

- MCC crew members should be prepared with masks if and when using a public restroom. Always wash hands when leaving a public space, if handwashing isn't available, hand sanitize before getting back into the rigs.

### **MCC Vehicle Use Overview**

**The following protocols are specifically designed to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission while being in an enclosed space (vehicle) for regular or prolonged periods of time (travel to project site), with more than one person in the vehicle (crew).**

### **When Traveling in a Vehicle:**

- **Wear a mask while traveling in an MCC vehicle**
- If a crew is on an extended hitch, and no COVID-19 symptoms are present after 7 days, the crew may not wear masks in the vehicle when returning to the regional office.
- If crews are commuting from town and members are going home for the evening, participants must continue to wear masks for the duration of the project.
  
- Limit the number of people in a vehicle as much as possible.
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning, keep windows open when possible.
- Wash hands frequently while traveling, after fill-ups or other public contacts, and keep hand sanitizer available for use.

### **Food Shopping**

Send the minimum number of people needed to shop. No more than two at a time. Continue to wear masks when food shopping on MCC time.

### **Hitch/Camp Safety Procedures**

- If someone is displaying COVID symptoms, they should not be preparing food.
- Maintain social distancing while in the kitchen area.
- Wash your hands before cooking, serving, or eating group food.

### **Responding to Illness or COVID-19 Symptoms in the Field**

- All members must disclose any illness or COVID-19 symptoms prior to starting a hitch and during your hitch.
- Any member exhibiting signs of any illness while on hitch, should alert leaders and immediately self-quarantine in place while symptoms are monitored.
- Self-Isolate the member exhibiting COVID symptoms and notify regional staff.
  - **If symptoms worsen over a 24 hour period, immediately activate evacuation procedures.**
  - **If any of these emergency warning signs for COVID-19 present immediately activate 911 and emergency evacuation procedures:**
    - Trouble breathing

- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
  - New confusion or inability to arouse/awake
  - Bluish lips or face
- If symptoms are mild, the member can remain in the field but self-isolated for at least 5 days.
- The affected member should wear a mask at the onset of symptoms and anyone coming into close contact.
- Follow CDC guidelines for disinfecting the home, basecamp facilities, vehicle used by a person symptomatic with COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19.

### **Evacuation Procedures for COVID-19 symptoms**

- Call/Contact MCC staff to initiate emergency response plan.
- Notify the project partner and keep them informed of the situation.
- If driving out is possible and appropriate, put the person in the far back of the vehicle, with some air ventilation, wearing a mask. Driver must wear a mask with windows ajar for air ventilation.
- Upon return from the field, get a COVID-19 test.

### **Screening for COVID-19 prior to hitch, training event, or coming into the office:**

- If a staff member or MCC participant is demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms, stay home and get tested.
- If a staff member or MCC participant is living with an individual that tested positive for COVID-19, they should work from home.
- Following a direct household/crew exposure, staff members or MCC participants can return to the office or go out on hitch after five days with no symptoms or a negative PCR test.

### **Returning to the Field After COVID-19:**

Members or staff that were positive for COVID-19:

Can return to work after:

- Symptoms improved **and**
- 5 days since symptoms first appeared.

If you tested positive for COVID-19 but had **no** symptoms:

- You can return to work after 5 days since the positive test.

The CDC guidance is [here](#).

### **Guidance for Crew Members on days off**

- MCC crew members will be expected to follow the guidelines established in the MCC Community Well-Being agreement during their time off.

- The pandemic continues to evolve over time. Pay attention to case counts in the community that you live, if cases are increasing take the necessary precautions to limit your exposure to COVID-19 in public places. Wear a mask! Limit your time in public places when cases are high.