

COVID-19 Guidelines for TNC Volunteer Activities
The Nature Conservancy, Vermont
Updated June 2021

Nature nourishes the mind, body, and spirit. The Nature Conservancy's work has never been more important, and we invite you to join us in well-planned and low risk volunteer activities. Help us maintain safety by reviewing and following this guidance. Volunteers must read and sign this document, acknowledging they understand and will abide by these guidelines. We look forward to seeing you.

Purpose: To reduce staff and volunteer exposure to COVID-19 during workdays and other volunteer activities AND to ensure we are being responsible members of our community by following public health guidelines to slow the spread of the illness. Please use extra caution during this difficult time. As we are learning more about transmission from studies and experts, outbreaks have tended to follow these common factors:

close proximity (crowds of people) + low air ventilation (enclosed places) + long duration

Our goal with these guidelines is to minimize each of these as much as possible. When participating in an activity, pay close attention to these factors to reduce risk.

NOTE: *No staff or volunteers are required to participate in any field activity if they are uncomfortable with any of the guidelines below. TNC reserves the right to ask volunteers to stop participating at any time if they are not following these guidelines.*

General COVID-19 Guidelines

- Volunteers may work independently, with another volunteer(s) who lives in the same household, or within small groups (the # of people will be determined and approved by the local chapter according to TNC guidelines);
- Volunteers will work at a minimum of 6 feet/2 meters from one another, and if not possible, will wear face coverings in accordance with TNC's face covering policy;
- Volunteers should avoid physical contact with anyone, including third parties such as contractors or researchers, when engaging in field work;
- Face coverings, hand sanitizer (or access to soap + water) and/or disinfecting wipes are **required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for any volunteer activities**. If these items become unavailable, the workday cannot proceed. Facial coverings are to be worn when working closer than 6' of others. Facial coverings need to be readily accessible to be used in the event people come in close contact;
- Volunteers need to carry personal health insurance and/or health coverage (e.g. Medicare, Medicaid);
- Volunteers need to complete the daily self-certification health form as applicable and will follow all reporting instructions;
- Volunteers must abstain from work and contact their medical provider if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have been in physical contact with a person exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive;
- Volunteers should follow guidance from public health officials regarding staying home if ill and other recommended health protocols related to COVID-19. Guidance around symptoms and appropriate health and hygiene standards can be found from the [World Health Organization](#) and [Center for Disease Control](#). Because this guidance changes as experts learn more about the virus, please check the guidance regularly;
- Staff will disinfect shared tools and equipment at the beginning and end of the workday and between users.

Travel: Care should be taken during potential exposure points when traveling to/from the site. This includes washing hands or hand sanitizer before/after pumping gas and avoiding dine-in restaurants.

Workday Related Vehicles: UTV's and boats can be utilized with others if air flow and PPE, and short durations are maintained because:

1. There is significant air flow,
2. separation is generally feasible, and
3. participants have PPE. If on a larger boat, more than 2 can travel if separation is readily achievable.

Site Specific Protocols

All volunteers are encouraged to bring their own gloves and any other tools that will be useful during the workday to limit disinfection that will need to be completed by TNC staff. All volunteers must bring their own lunch and water and sharing of food between households is prohibited.

Volunteer Certification of Health Insurance/Coverage

I certify that I have personal health insurance and/or other health coverage (e.g. Medicare, Medicaid).

Acknowledgement of these Guidelines:

I have reviewed the guidelines in this document and agree to follow them when participating in volunteer activities with TNC Vermont. I understand that TNC staff will ask me to stop volunteering if I do not follow these guidelines at any time. I also understand that in addition to this signed document, I must have a current (within the calendar year) signed TNC liability form.

Signature of TNC Volunteer

Date