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**COVID-19**

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

**PROTOCOLS**

**FIELD MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

**2023 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 November 2, 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
* Ensure staff and members perform personal protective measures (handwashing in the office and in field kitchens)
* Use masks in vehicles and in office spaces when necessary to prevent concentrated COVID-19 outbreaks.
* Plan for possible outbreaks and provide COVID-19 emergency evacuation procedures for every hitch.

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 if there are known COIVD-19 cases present on a crew or within office staff.

 **Hitch/Camp Safety Procedures**

* If someone is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, they should not be preparing food.
* 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 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.

 **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:

* 5 days since symptoms first appeared.
* Symptoms improved **and your fever is gone for 24 hour period without fever reducing medications**

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

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

In both cases, wear a mask until day 10 from symptoms onset or positive test result.

The CDC guidance is [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html).