



# **Back Country Horsemen of Washington Guidance for working while the Corona Virus is a concern.**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- a. This Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) plan is an extract from the Washington state website on this topic. This plan includes policies regarding the following control measures: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) utilization; on-site social distancing; hygiene; sanitation; symptom monitoring; incident reporting; site decontamination procedures; tailgate safety briefing; exposure response procedures; and a post-exposure incident project wide recovery plan.
- b. Adhere to the requirements of this guideline as long as Washington State Government restrictive measures for the Corona virus are in place. If those restrictions are lifted, adherence to the requirements in this document is no longer mandatory.
- c. Consider closure of trails while they are being worked to minimize contact with unmonitored trail users. The agreement to close trails is most expediently accomplished in the planning phase, when BCHW is meeting with land managers to discuss the project.

## **2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- a. The Trail Work Leader shall appoint a site-specific Corona Virus supervisor at every job site. This supervisor is to monitor the health of volunteers and enforce the Corona Virus job site safety plan. A designated Corona Virus Supervisor must be present at all times during work activities, except where 6 or fewer people are involved.
- b. This document shall be reviewed at each trailhead safety briefing and posted at base camp.

## **3. DISTANCING**

- a. Maintain at least 6 feet of spacing at all times unless workers are from the same household. Infrequent intermittent passing within 6 feet is allowed between personnel if both are wearing respiratory protection.
- b. Gatherings of any size must be precluded by taking breaks and lunch in shifts. Any time two or more persons must meet, ensure minimum 6 feet of separation.

- c. Workers may go to a central point one-at-a-time to drop off or pick up items that transfer between workers.
- d. Meetings with workers are limited as per state mandates currently in effect regarding meetings. All meeting attendees are to maintain 6 foot spacing.

#### 4. PERSONNEL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- a. Each volunteer must provide their own personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate, or required, for the activity being performed.
- b. Masks must be worn at all times by every volunteer on the worksite, in the food areas, and common meeting areas. Masks may be removed by personnel if outside gathering areas, and no closer than 20 feet from others. The requirement to wear masks does not apply to personnel retiring within their own place of residence (e.g. camper/living Quarters) at the camping site.
- c. Eye protection (goggles/face shields) must be worn at all times by every volunteer while on the worksite and within 20 feet of others.
- d. Gloves must be worn at all times by every volunteer while on the worksite. The type of glove worn should be appropriate to the task. If gloves are not typically required for the task, then any type of glove is acceptable, including disposable latex gloves.
- e. If appropriate PPE cannot be provided for each individual at a work site, individuals without appropriate PPE must leave, or the worksite must be shut down.

#### 5. CLEANING

- a. The work party leader shall assign cleaning duties to specific individuals who shall be responsible for the following.
- b. Disinfect high touch surfaces. Bleach solutions or an EPA approved disinfectant must be used to make sure this is effective. (See the list of approved disinfectants at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov>. There are 392 products on this website. Research the ones to be used to ensure they meet this standard and are registered as effective against the Corona Virus. These disinfectants are to be **used on surfaces NOT humans**.
- c. Workers must sanitize their hands and/or gloves after touching any surface/tool suspected of being contaminated, before and after eating and using the restroom, and after coughing, sneezing or blowing their nose, and before touching their face. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol can be used.

## 6. SICK VOLUNTEER AND POST- VOLUNTEER ILLNESS PROCEDURES.

- a. Encourage workers to stay home or leave the worksite when feeling sick or when they have been in close contact with a confirmed positive case. If they develop symptoms of acute respiratory illness, they must seek medical attention and inform the BCHW Trail Work Leader.
- b. Volunteers that have a sick family member at home with Corona Virus shall stay home and not participate in the volunteer work activities.
- c. Screen all workers at the beginning of their shift by asking them if they have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell.
- d. Thermometers shall only be used by those suspecting illness. The suspect shall take their own temperature using a 'no touch' or 'no contact' to the greatest extent possible. The thermometer used must be properly sanitized between each use. Any worker with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher is considered to have a fever and must be sent home.
- e. Perform a deep cleaning after any worker reporting a suspected or confirmed case of Corona Virus leaves the workplace.
- f. Thoroughly clean areas where the worker worked or would have stayed more than 10 minutes. • Wipe all accessible surfaces • Clean up any visible soiling including any smears or streaks. • Sanitize common touch surfaces in the vicinity. Do not allow other workers into these areas until the cleaning is complete.
- g. Engineering controls, such as barriers, can be established and maintained to provide an effective distancing of volunteer when it is not feasible to fully separate them.

If a volunteer worker becomes sick, provide them with accommodations that are separate from others. - A separate building or room if available or use barriers or distance to separate them from others. - Provide separate food and bathroom access. Arrangement for medical access. - Telemedicine resources should be utilized first to determine appropriate care. - Provide for transportation, if necessary, in a manner that does not expose others. - BCHW Work Leaders or other supervision in the work party needs to consult with a physician or public health authority to monitor the situation and provide guidance on treatment and continued housing of all workers. Use the Emergency Action Plan portion of the emergency plans for this communication.

Approved by BCHW Safety Committee 2 May 2020