



Parks and Recreation Department
City of Bellingham

Parks Volunteer Program Safe Start Plan

Guidelines for Safe Start Operating Plan

Program staff will follow the guidelines released by the [Whatcom County Health Department COVID-19 Guidance](#) and [CDC guidelines](#).

Communication with participants about our Safe Start Plan of Operations

Guidelines regarding program safety will be posted onsite, emailed to registered participants, and shared with program participants upon entry to work parties or events. We will also conduct an orientation to explain these procedures and address questions and concerns. Any participant who does not follow the required safety guidance may be asked to leave.

Registration

Participants are required to register for volunteer work parties prior to attending. This allows us to plan more effectively for events and control group sizes, as needed. Walk-ups are welcome as long as there is space available.

Maintenance of Physical Separation

Participants will be asked to remain 6 feet apart from others outside of their household group at all times during events, including while checking in. Posted signs will remind participants about appropriate spacing.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are required to participate regardless of vaccination status and must be worn by adults and children 5 years of age and over. Children ages 3 and 4 are recommended, but not required, to wear face coverings. Any time face coverings are removed while participating outdoors, a minimum of 6 feet of physical distancing must be kept between people not from the same household. If participants are indoors in public settings, they must wear a mask. If participants arrive to an event or work party without a mask, staff will provide one for them.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

Hand sanitizer and clean work gloves will be provided at the check-in tents. Participants will be encouraged to sanitize hands upon arrival, departure, and as needed (e.g. after a cough or sneeze).

Tools

Participants will be discouraged from sharing tools at events unless properly sanitized between users. Participants should only use tools while wearing work gloves.

Main Office

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Operations

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Screening of Participants

Participants will receive the health screening questions upon registration via email. Upon arrival, staff members will ask participants the following series of health questions. If any of the answers to the health questions are 'yes', participants will be asked to leave the work party and return home.

Health Screening Questions:

1. Do you have any of the following symptoms that are not attributable to another condition?
 - a. A cough
 - b. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - c. A fever of 100.4°F or higher or a sense of having a fever
 - d. A sore throat
 - e. Chills
 - f. New loss of taste or smell
 - g. Muscle or body aches
 - h. Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
 - i. Congestion/running nose – not related to seasonal allergies
 - j. Unusual fatigue
2. Does anyone in your household have any of the above symptoms?
3. Have you been in close contact with anyone with suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
4. Have you taken any medication to reduce a fever before coming to the work party?

Procedure for illness during the program

If a participant or staff member becomes sick during a work party, they must immediately remain at a distance of 10 feet or greater from all other participants and staff and leave the event immediately. The person with symptoms should follow DOH guidance for what to do if you have symptoms for COVID-19.

Procedure if a participant tests positive for COVID-19

If a participant tests positive for COVID-19, they should self-quarantine for 14 days. A participant who had signs of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can return to a Parks Volunteer program when:

- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications;
AND
- At least 10 days have passed since signs first showed up; OR
- It has been at least 24 hours since recovery AND a healthcare professional has cleared you to resume normal activities.

If a person believes they have had close contact to someone with COVID-19 but they are not sick, they should watch their health for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other COVID-19 symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the sick person with COVID-19. They should not attend the program for 14 days.

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