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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

In order to limit group sizes, participants must register for volunteer work parties prior to attending. Drop-in participation will no longer be allowed.

### Maximum Gathering Size

The maximum gathering size during work parties is 20 depending on the site and space available. Groups will be separated into groups of 5 max for project work.

### Maintenance of Physical Separation

Participants will be asked to remain 6 feet apart while checking in with leaders or staff at work party tents. Posted signs will remind participants about appropriate spacing. Participants are required to continue maintaining a safe distance of 6 feet or more apart throughout the work party unless they are from the same household.

### Face Coverings

Face coverings are required to participate 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, a minimum of 6 feet of physical distancing must be kept between people not from the same household. 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. Event restrooms (when available) and common touch point locations will be sanitized prior to each work party. Participants will

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be encouraged to sanitize hands upon arrival, departure, and as needed (e.g. after a cough or sneeze). Participants will also be reminded to avoid touching their faces.

### **Tools**

Participants will be discouraged from sharing tools at events unless properly sanitized between users. At the end of each day, tools will be cleaned with water (to remove soil/dirt) and then sprayed with disinfectant. Two different sets of tools will be provided when there are two different work parties in one day and will not be mixed.

### **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.