

# E COVID-19 TRAIL VOLUNTEER INFORMATION LETTER

The following COVID-19 Trail Volunteer Information Letter is designed to be distributed to all trail volunteers to help the volunteers understand the safe work practices that will be applied and the expectations of volunteers during volunteer trail initiatives that are undertaken as directed by the trail operator.



## TRAIL STEWARDSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Dear Trail Steward,

Dedicating countless hours to trail development, management and maintenance, trail volunteers are the foundation on which quality, safe and sustainable trail networks are built. Though we work to provide quality trail experiences, our number one priority is protecting the safety and well-being of our volunteers and our trail visitors. The COVID-19 pandemic has required us to review the operation and management of our trails, including how we lead and manage our dedicated crew of volunteer stewards, like you.

Though your volunteer contributions are just as important today as they were before the COVID-19 pandemic, the way you volunteer with us for the foreseeable future is going to look a little different. Through a critical review of our existing safe work practices, we have identified a number of additional practices that we need to implement, and we need you to implement, in order to maintain the safety of our volunteers and to limit risks that COVID-19 will be transmitted through our volunteer initiatives. We are taking this opportunity to share these additional practices with you in advance of our next volunteer initiative in hopes that you will understand and feel confident in the measures we are taking maintain your safety.

### Volunteer Safe Work Practices

During our volunteer initiatives, we require that all volunteers:

1. Follow all national and provincial or territorial health orders and safe work practices including those directed by your volunteer crew leader.
2. Stay home if you are feeling unwell – we look forward to you joining us when you feel well.
3. Genuinely consider your personal vulnerability to COVID-19 and whether volunteering at this time is in your best interest.
4. Remain at least 2m from all other crew members, who are not from your household, at all times.

5. Bring your own food, water, clothing and personal equipment and avoid sharing yours with others.
6. Clean and disinfect your hands frequently and practice appropriate respiratory etiquette.
7. Wear all Personal Protective Equipment that as is required in our safe work practices.
8. Tools and equipment are likely to be assigned to a single person for the day. Please refrain from sharing tools unless they have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Cleaning and disinfecting of tools and equipment is required at the end of each day.
9. Avoid car pooling to and from the worksite. Please travel in your own vehicle.
10. Have fun – despite our new safety practices, we want all our volunteers to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Please note that, as required, we may also:

- Limit the number of volunteers that are assigned to each crew and working on a single initiative to remain consistent with public health direction regarding gatherings.
- Conduct planning and preparation meetings virtually.
- Temporarily close the trail or establish work zones to minimize close contact between volunteers and visitors.

We are confident that the above measures will ensure we collectively do our part to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and hope that you feel confident in them as well. We look forward to you joining us on our next trail initiative. Please be sure to contact us should you have any further ideas or concerns.

Happy Trails!

**TheGreatTrail.ca**

