Wilderness Stewardship Organizations

Covid Response Strategies

**Developing a Covid Response Plan**

Items to consider in a Covid Response Plan include:

* Board support for the Program of Work
	+ Public Health needs to be highest priority in all stewardship activities
	+ How proposed activities fit within local conditions
	+ Support for proposed schedule of work and activities
* Recap of your local and state situation
	+ What rules and requirements exist and how your group will respond
* How your organization will operate over time relative to differences between Volunteer only and Paid Staff and Volunteers, or Paid Staff Only
	+ May engage paid staff earlier and easier
	+ Have a health and safety plan in place for each category
* Contingency plans for reinfection/reemergence issues
	+ Consider how to move people
	+ Shelter / quarantine needs
	+ Communication Plans for sharing what and why you are doing
* Assessment Period of work to be performed
* PPE Needs for the new environment
	+ Require Masks in Social situations
		- Dehydration and Overheating issues are surfacing from long term mask wear
	+ Stick with National Guidance
	+ Thermometers
	+ Bandana’s and other coverings
	+ Sanitizers and Cleaners
	+ Handi-wipes
* Assessment of medical facilities available
	+ Discuss SAR needs with providers
	+ Discuss with medical providers scope of work and needs
* Consider the demographics of the groups you are considering for your work projects
	+ Immunities – preconditions
	+ Local hires to avoid farther travel
* Waivers in place
	+ Update Covid-19 language to include contact tracing
	+ to include potential for infections
	+ Must follow medical practices in place
	+ Expanded volunteer commitment forms to follow safe practices
* What are the requirements under HIPA for asking people to self police.
	+ Updating and strengthening Self Policing statements and requirements
* Business as usual v.s. Radically new operating norms
	+ Disinfection protocols
		- Ability to procure disinfection materials
	+ Social distancing operating principles
		- Washing stations
		- Tool assignments
			* Including storage locations to minimize infections
		- Camping arrangements
		- Project selection
			* Individual versus work teams
			* Number of people at one time
			* Distance from trailheads and medical facilities
			* Ability to implement while maintaining social distance
		- Meal preparation
			* Community meals versus individual meal preparation
		- Sanitation practices
		- Data entry practices
	+ New training protocols to include medical practices and policies
		- Establish medical practice requirements
		- Training for employees to oversee and seek compliance
	+ Changes to transportation of employees
	+ Onboarding practices – follow state rules
		- Potential Self-quarantine for out of state volunteers – depends in state
		- Covid Testing based on availability
	+ Age limitations 18+
	+ Computer sharing or not
	+ Off-time practices and reengagement policies for staff
		- Self-quarantine requirements if employee travels on vacation
	+ Risk Assessment based on local/state infection rates and statistics
	+ Pollical realities in some smaller rural communities that do not feel they can support outsiders
	+ Timeframe for changes
	+ Pivot field funding to education and outreach that can be done virtually
	+ Adjustments in response plans for environmental hazard issues, like lightning storms, that may need to be changed to address social distancing
	+ Field crew operating norms for workweeks and off-time
	+ Medical response protocols for field crews for those that have or have not had Covid-19
		- Trigger list for medical conditions and responses
	+ Immunity issues and how they may affect employee and participation
	+ Point of Contact sheets updated including medical facilities and contact info
* Situational Awareness of Public responses to Changes in Service and availability of Resources
	+ Develop standard responses
	+ Prepare employees for likely situations
	+ Assess conflict reduction strategies
* Successful Strategies for Managing Groups using Social Distancing
	+ Group Events
	+ Volunteer Field Days
	+ Field Crews
	+ Ranger Patrols
* What do we do if a crew member or volunteer exhibits signs of sickness?
	+ Covif-19 vs common colds
	+ How long would quarantines last?
	+ How much isolation is required?
* What facilities are needed to quarantine staff?
	+ Housing at base
	+ At field locations
* What do we do if volunteers feel sick?
* Monitoring and After Action Reviews
	+ Solicit feedback
	+ Review application of procedures
	+ Adjust as needed