



The City of Seattle continues to work hard to protect the Safety and Health of its employees. This plan is designed for your protection while engaging in designated or assigned work related to the City of Seattle's sites per Labor and Industries [Guidance for Preventing COVID-19](#); COVID-19 [Reopening Guidance for Businesses and Workers](#); and [Washington States Guidelines for Volunteers and Volunteer Organizations during COVID-19 outbreak in Washington](#).

Background

This document outlines the protocols and guidelines for safe implementation of the Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This information is applicable to events and programming led by partner organizations, volunteer Forest Stewards and Seattle Parks and Recreation staff outdoors at Seattle Parks and Recreation facilities.

Participants are encouraged to decide if leading or participating in Green Seattle Partnership activities is appropriate for them based on their own health decisions and the health of their immediate community. Contractors/consultants engaged in community engaged work on behalf the Seattle Parks and Recreation will ensure that these protocols and guidelines are included and/or referenced in their safety protocols.

General Guidelines for Outdoor Events

- **Event Size** - There is no event size limit for outdoor events. Instead, event leads are encouraged to limit events to 30 people or less, provided lead to participant ratios are at least 1:10 to allow for close supervision and safe programming. Events larger than 30 participants are possible but require logistics review with a GSP Plant Ecologist and potentially an event-specific safety plan.
- **Event Duration** - There is no event duration limit for outdoor events. Instead, event leads are encouraged to host shorter events or offer 2-hour shifts.
- **Health Screening** - Health screenings are not required to be administered at the start of the event. Event leads will continue to encourage participants to monitor their health conditions before attending an event and will encourage participants to stay home if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of smell or taste. A health screening sign will be posted with registration information at the event.
- **Volunteer Registration** - Participants are encouraged to pre-register and agree to waiver language prior to the event using the GSP online registration system, CEDAR. During the event, registration materials including clipboards, pens and surfaces will be sanitized frequently.
- **Distancing** - All participants shall maintain 6-foot distancing from other participants (outside of their household) or other park users at all times. Leads should consider the following to ensure safe distancing:
 - Work areas need to be spread out with ample space to maintain distance between individuals/households.
 - Avoid hosting volunteer events during peak hours of park use, depending on the site.
 - Consider how to eliminate time during the event where people gather in one space; for example, welcome area, mulch pile, etc.
- **Face Covering** - The [COVID-19 Face Covering Policy for City of Seattle Executive Department Employees, Contractors/Vendors, Volunteers and Visitors to City Facilities](#) (updated on August 2, 2021) outlines the policy and exemptions for face coverings.
 - This includes the requirement to provide disposable masks for participants. Event leads can request masks from GSP via email or CEDAR. All participants should arrive to the event wearing masks
 - When children (younger than 12) are present, face coverings are required for all participants (except children under 2 years old).
 - All participants should arrive wearing a face covering, and keep it on during event introductions, when assisting other participants with tasks, during clean up and in any other scenario where 6-foot distancing cannot be maintained. Masks may be removed during work activities where participants are spread out and able to maintain at least 6-foot distancing.



- See below for additional detail on mask removal during eating and drinking.
- **Sanitation** - Common sanitation practices are still an important part of limiting the spread of COVID-19. Events leads are required to support sanitation efforts, including:
 - GSP will continue to coordinate delivery of sanitation supplies through direct email request or as part of CEDAR requests.
 - Provide hand sanitizer that is alcohol-based and contains at least 60% alcohol to effectively kill the virus. Hand washing stations are not required, but where feasible, event leads should direct people to comfort stations with soap and water in addition to having hand sanitizer available.
 - Tool handles should be sanitized before transferring between program participants. Tool sanitation is not required when the interval between use exceeds 7 days. Use disinfectant wipes/cleaner with greater than 70% alcohol and ensure there is one minute or more contact with the surface when cleaning tools, vehicles, and other surfaces to properly kill virus which may be present.
- **Gloves** – All staff and participants must wear gloves while handling tools, supplies, or equipment. Leads are encouraged to ask participants to bring their own gloves. GSP will offer free gloves for participants to use and take home. Where safe handling can be ensured (after 7 days or while wearing a mask and gloves), washing gloves between uses is okay.
- **Food** - Food at events is discouraged, but where necessary, a minimum of 10-foot distancing is required for people to eat with their masks off. Providing food requires thoughtful use of pre-packaged foods and close adherence to the sanitation requirements listed above.
- **Hydration** - Hydration during events is always encouraged and a minimum of 10-foot distancing is required for people to drink with their masks off.
- **Bathrooms** - Both sanitarians and access to comfort stations are allowed at this time.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Do these protocols apply to vaccinated participants and staff?*
Yes, unvaccinated and vaccinated people are no longer distinguished in State or local face covering requirements.
2. *Do I need to develop a site-specific Safety Plan?*
No, not unless the programming you are leading diverges from the common Green Seattle Partnership event format described above.
3. *Can I take off my face covering when working away from others?*
Yes, but face coverings are required when 6-foot distance cannot be maintained.
4. *Can we continue doing site visits?*
Yes, all participants will be required to wear a face covering unless 6-foot spacing can be maintained during the site visit.



References

- [Seattle Parks and Recreation COVID-19 Safety Plan for Non-Childcare, Youth Program, and Day Camp Facilities](#)
- [City of Seattle Department of Human Resources COVID-19 Face Covering Policy](#)
- [Seattle Parks and Recreation COVID-19 Guidelines for Recreation Programming](#)
- [Washington Department of Labor and Industries COVID-19 Information](#)
- [Washington Department of Health COVID Resources](#)
- [Washington Department of Health Guidance for Child Care, Youth Development, and Day Camps During COVID-19](#)
- [King County Public Health COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
- [Washington State COVID-19 Reopening Guidance for Businesses and Workers](#)
- [King County Parks Volunteer Program COVID-19 Safety Plan](#)
- [Serve Washington Guidelines for volunteers and volunteer organizations during COVID-19 outbreak in Washington](#)