



## **COVID - 19 Mitigation & Operations Plan Spring/Summer/Fall 2021**

We had strict COVID-19 protocols in place for our 2020 summer season and are proud that about 700 people on over 50 trips lasting 3-6 days, and another 1500+ on half and full-day trips, traveled with us and, as far as we know, no one contracted COVID-19 while under our care. We are taking what we learned in 2020 and preparing for our 2021 tours. No one knows what the world will be like in a few months' time. Our hope is that we can operate our trips in much the same way we did before COVID-19. However, we have plans in place in the event that the virus is still active in the world.

We take standards for hygiene and cleanliness seriously and regardless of the status of the pandemic in 2021, we will continue to take additional steps to protect our guests and employees from virus spread. Our health and safety measures are designed to address a broad spectrum of viruses, including SARS-CoV-2 (a novel coronavirus that causes the disease COVID -19) and include everything from employee and guest use of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), handwashing hygiene and cleaning product specifications to the cleaning of vehicles, boats and all the equipment used during our trips.

The purpose of this plan is to develop and implement a strategy to operate trips in a manner that would minimize the possibility of the spread and outbreak of COVID-19 on our trips. We are closely monitoring government policy changes, CDC guidelines, mandates from federal, state and local governments and health departments. We will continue to make changes, as necessary or appropriate, to our protocols and procedures. If COVID-19 is no longer deemed a significant public health risk by public health experts during the 2021 season, then these protocols will be modified accordingly. If the virus is still as significant public health risk, we will fully implement these practices.

SARS CoV-2 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person in respiratory droplets from someone who is infected. People who are infected often have symptoms of illness. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread viruses.

Spread is also possible from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects, although recent research suggests this is less likely than once thought. However, it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

While we will do everything we can to minimize the risk of transmission, the world is an inherently risky place and we cannot eliminate the possibility that you could get COVID-19 while traveling, either with ROW, or before or after your ROW trip. **The decision to travel and take the risk of contracting the illness is your decision and yours alone.**

Some guests are asking us: “Where are the other people from that are going on our trip?” We imagine people ask this because of concerns that people might be traveling from a place with a high rate of infection. While we understand the reasoning behind the questions, it is important to consider that rates of infection have proven to change rapidly across the globe. In addition, there is an added variable of how guests choose to travel to the trip, specifically meaning their route and medium of transportation, potentially invalidating the question of where they are originally from.

**With this perspective and, given what we currently understand about the transmission of the virus SARS-CoV-2 and the disease COVID-19; if the virus is still a concern during the 2021 season, then ROW will consider all employees and guests to be a person with unknown infection (PUI) and act accordingly.**

In order to prevent issues from arising on trips, we have also developed a “[COVID-19 Code of Conduct Pledge](#)” that outlines our expected behavior from guests. We reserve the right to remove from a trip any guest who does not comply with these simple precautions.

For the purpose of this document, the term “Travel Party” refers to people who live together or are traveling together and won’t necessarily practice social distancing among themselves.

## **Social Distancing**

Social distancing, where feasible, will be promoted through all aspects of a ROW Adventures trip including, but not limited to the pre-trip meeting, safety talk, PFD fitting, while on boats, during shuttles, at camp, during meals, and during hikes. When social distancing is not possible, PPE will be required. The specifics of how our distancing protocols are used are outlined throughout this document.

## **Cleaning procedures**

### **Vehicles**

- All vehicles will be cleaned and sanitized each time they are used to carry passengers.
- Sprayers with sanitizing agents will be used in all buses, vans and on all other equipment after each use.
- Frequently touched surfaces wiped down with an approved solution (½ cup bleach per gallon, CDC approved disinfectant, or 70% alcohol)

### **Hand Washing on the River**

1. The soap and water hand wash system will be set-up first when arriving in camp or at any other stopping point. It will remain set-up for the duration of the stop. In camp, handwashing stations will be set up at the entrance to toilet facilities and near the dining area. (within 25’, or in the most convenient and obvious location).
2. In addition, hand sanitizer will be placed at the head of serving tables and used as a supplementary step.
3. Each boat will be equipped with hand soap and/or hand sanitizer. Hand washing will occur:
  - a. Before and after every new activity. (ie. Before eating, tent set-up, bathroom, etc)
  - b. After blowing one’s nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - d. Before and after using the toilet.
  - e. Before eating or preparing food.

- f. After removing gloves and/or after contact with a person who is ill.

### **Toilet Facilities**

- Guides wear gloves when setting up and taking down facilities.
- All surfaces are disinfected upon set-up.
- Guests are instructed to spray the lid, and seating area before and after use with a supplied disinfectant spray.
- Guests instructed to spray any other surface they have touched both pre and post-use.
- Users wash hands before and after using the facilities.

### **Personal Camping and Rafting Gear**

1. Tents will be assigned for the duration of the trip.
2. Tents will be kept in a personal dry bag, or the tent bag sprayed with sanitizer before returning to a tent bag.
3. Tents will be sanitized prior to each trip, and if possible, be cycled out of use for 48 hours between trips.
4. Sleeping bags and pillows are washed between trips and dried in the dryer on a hot setting.
5. Dry bags are sanitized between trips.

### **Food Service Protocols**

1. No buffet-style food service will be allowed. Guides will plate and serve food to guests.
2. Appetizer service will be modified to serve food per travel party.
3. A line to maintain 6' or more between guests and the serving table will be maintained.
4. Guests may not help prepare or serve food or congregate in the food preparation area.
5. The use of face-covering is mandatory while preparing food.
6. Staff will wash hands frequently.
7. Clean shirts and aprons worn by guides preparing and serving food.
8. Food preparation and service surfaces are thoroughly sanitized prior to use, between tasks, and after tasks.
9. Drink coolers will have hand-sanitizer in place to use before anyone self-serves.

### **PPE Requirements**

1. Everyone will be required to wear a mask or face cover in vehicles (vans, buses, planes).
2. Throughout the entire trip: Masks or face cover if not able to stay 6 feet away from anyone that participants do not reside or travel with.
3. Guides wear masks or face cover when working in the kitchen.
4. Guest-facing office staff will wear masks or face covers when interacting with the public.
5. Guests will be required to supply their own water bottles and face masks or covers.

**Avoiding Physical Contact:** Everyone will be reminded to avoid physical contact. High-fives, handshakes and hugs will be distanced and virtual.

## Guidelines for Specific Trips

### Rowing & Paddle Boat Trips Lasting 2 or more days:

1. Separate family groups traveling from common households, or who have traveled inside the same vehicle into the same area or section of rafts, shuttle vehicles, planes, busses, and jet boats in order to comply with current CDC social distancing recommendations.
2. Equipment such as PFD's and helmets will be clearly marked and used by the same person all week and/or sanitized if changing hands.
3. The spacing of guests according to current guidelines: food lines, eating meals, hiking, camping, and at orientations and interpretive stops.
4. Spacing in vehicles to accommodate appropriate social distancing of guests. Groups traveling together may be seated together. Masks or face covering in vehicles may be required.
5. Craft Capacity- Below are our normal (non-COVID-19) guidelines followed by our COVID-19 guidelines. For reservations made during the winter of 2020/21 for the May-September 2021 season, we will limit trip size based on the possibility that COVID-19 is still a public health concern. If, as the season approaches, it is no longer a significant public health concern, we will revert to normal trip capacities.

Our goal is to maintain social distancing in rafts. Typically, we have oar-powered rafts, paddle-rafts, cargo rafts and on some trips, inflatable kayaks. On the Upper Missouri River we use canoes. To learn more about our fleets and these craft, see our full [Whitewater Craft Guide](#).

**Solo Travelers:** When possible, we will isolate singles in either the front or back of a raft, however, because we need a minimum of 3 people per raft, singles must be willing to share a raft compartment with another single should that be necessary.

**Oar Rafts:** These rafts are rowed by a guide who sits in the middle. We will plan for 1 travel party in the front and one in the back. Since travel parties can range in size from 1 to 4 or more people, here are some examples where "F" means "front of raft" and "B" means "back of raft." Examples could be: 2 F/2B; 3 F/1B; 2F/1B; 3F/2B.

**Paddle Rafts:** These rafts have a guide in the back who gives directions and guests with paddles in the rest of the raft. These are often somewhat smaller rafts, so we have reduced our capacity from 6-7 guests to 4 guests. However, an additional 1-2 guests can ride in a non-paddling position by sitting on the cross-tube between other paddlers. This works well for smaller children who may be part of a larger family. Because of concerns over mixing travel parties, the flexibility we have in loading paddle rafts changes dramatically. During non-Covid times people can mix and match all they want. During Covid-19 times, we can only provide paddle raft space to groups of 4 traveling together. That said, if two couples who are in separate travel parties decide they want to ride in a paddle raft together after a trip starts, we have no objection. Our responsibility to protect our guides requires us to maintain distance between the paddlers and our guide in the back of the raft.

**Inflatable Kayaks:** We offer these on some of our rivers on certain stretches of river. These are for 1 or 2 paddlers. Keeping travel parties separate is thus easy.

**Canoes:** On the Upper Missouri River in Montana we offer trips utilizing both 34’ Voyageur canoes as well as 2-person 17’ canoes. We have reduced the capacity of our Voyageur canoes to accommodate physical distancing.

### Pre COVID-19 (“normal”) & Post-COVID-19 Trip Size and Craft Figures

| MULTI-DAY TRIPS                           | Guest Count |          | Guide Count |          | Raft/Canoe Count |          | Guests Per Oar Raft |          | Guests Per Paddle Raft |          |
|---|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
|   | Normal      | Covid-19 | Normal      | Covid-19 | Normal           | Covid-19 | Normal              | Covid-19 | Normal                 | Covid-19 |
| Snake Hells Canyon                        | 19          | 17       | 5           | 7        | 5                | 7        | 4-5                 | 3-4      | 6-7                    | 4        |
| Salmon River Canyons                      | 23          | 21       | 7           | 9        | 6                | 8        | 4-5                 | 3-4      | 6-7                    | 4        |
| Middle Fork Salmon                        | 23          | 21       | 7           | 9        | 6                | 8        | 4-5                 | 3-4      | 6-7                    | 4        |
| Rogue                                     | 20-23       | 17-21    | 5           | 5-7      | 5                | 5-7      | 4-5                 | 3-4      | 6-7                    | 4-5      |
| Bruneau                                   | 10          | 10       | 5           | 5        | 5                | 5        | 2                   | 2        | 6                      | 4        |
| Owyhee                                    | 16          | 15       | 4           | 5        | 4                | 5        | 3-4                 | 2-3      | 6                      | 4        |
| Deschutes                                 | 13          | 12       | 3           | 4        | 3                | 4        | 3-4                 | 2-3      | 6-7                    | 4        |
| Grande Ronde                              | 24          | 22       | 6           | 7-8      | 6                | 7-8      | 4-5                 | 3-4      | 6-7                    | 4        |
| Upper Missouri                            | 24          | 24       | 6           | 6        | 2-7*             | 2-7*     | 12-13**             | 8-9**    | 2**                    | 2**      |
| *A mix of voyageur and smaller 17' canoes |             |          |             |          |                  |          |                     |          | **Canoe                |          |
| MULTI-DAY TRIPS                           | Guest Count |          | Guide Count |          | Raft/Canoe Count |          | Guests Per Oar Raft |          | Guests Per Paddle Raft |          |
|   | Normal      | Covid-19 | Normal      | Covid-19 | Normal           | Covid-19 | Normal              | Covid-19 | Normal                 | Covid-19 |
| Moyie/St. Joe                             | 30          | 24       | 5           | 6        | 5                | 6        | NA                  | NA       | 6-7                    | 4        |
| Lochsa                                    | 30          | 24       | 5           | 6        | 5                | 6        | NA                  | NA       | 6                      | 4        |
| Selway                                    | 30          | 24       | 5           | 6        | 5                | 6        | NA                  | NA       | 6                      | 4        |
| Clearwater                                | 30          | 24       | 5           | 6        | 5                | 6        | NA                  | NA       | 6                      | 4        |
| Clark Fork                                | 48 +        | 24       | 1/ 6-7      | 1/ 4     | 6+               | 6        | BY Req              |          | 6-7                    | 4        |
| Deschutes                                 | 21          | 19       | 3           | 5        | 3                | 5        | BY Req              |          | 7                      | 4        |

### Thoughts Particular to our Family Magic Trips

Children and Social Distancing - As with everyone on our trips, we will be emphasizing a minimum 6’ of social distancing between all traveling parties. While we will still be able to conduct most of our normal activities, we will plan and adapt games and activities to be distanced. Arts & Crafts will be spread out as needed. On walks we will stay further apart. For other activities we may divide up into smaller groups in order to maintain distance.

### Half-Day and One-Day River Trips

1. Boatloads will be managed according to groups who are traveling together, aka a Travel Party.
2. Some trips provide the opportunity for the use of inflatable kayaks.
3. Personal equipment such as helmets, PFD’s (Personal Flotation Devices), paddles etc. will be sanitized between every use.

4. Every person has an assigned PFD for the whole trip clearly marked and distinguishable from others.
5. Spacing in vehicles to accommodate current CDC social distancing guidelines for passenger vehicles. Groups traveling together may be seated together. Masks or face covering in vehicles may be required.
6. Guests are responsible for bringing their own water bottles.
7. Food will be served to guests, no buffet service.

## **Bicycle, Walking and Multisport Trips**

The applicable protocols listed above for river trips apply. In addition, any specialized gear will be assigned to participants for their exclusive use during the trip and/or sanitized as needed.

**Additional Specific steps we are taking. The following steps were in place in 2020. In 2021 we will stay informed and follow any of these protocols that seem necessary or are recommended by public health official guidelines.**

### **I. Screening Employees**

Every day, before work, each employee must pass a temperature screen and then answer the following questions:

“Since your last day of work, have you had any of the following:”

- A new fever (100.4 or higher, or a sense of having a fever)?
- A new cough that you cannot attribute to another health condition?
- New shortness of breath that you cannot attribute to another health condition?
- New muscle aches that you cannot attribute to another health condition or that may have been caused by a specific activity (such as physical exercise)?

**If an employee answers yes to any of the screening questions, the screener will immediately activate the emergency protocol for COVID-19 by following these steps:**

- Remove the employee from the work area and isolate the employee from others.
- Implement the use of masks and gloves by the employee and co-workers until the status of this employee can be determined with a medical test.
- Have the employee examined and tested by a medical professional as soon as this is feasible.

Bear in mind for operations in wilderness settings, this creates limitations.

### **If an employee tests positive:**

- Quarantine the employee in a housing facility that has been established for this purpose. (Again, in wilderness settings this will be handled on a case-by-case basis using best-available resources.)
- Assure adequate medical care and treatment for the employee.
- Coordinate with local officials to conduct “contact tracing” (if available), especially among other employees.

- Have other employees who have been in close contact with the positive employee tested.
- In consultation with medical professionals, consider a quarantine of those employees who have been in close contact with the positive employee.

## II. Screening Guests

Before Arrival:

- Before the departure of any tour, any participant who has not yet signed our [Participant Acknowledgement of Risk, Health Condition Responsibility, and Screening Consent Related to COVID-19](#), will be sent one and will be required to sign this electronically before arrival to their pre-trip orientation. This will contain some important explanations of inherent risks related to COVID-19 as well as granting consent for ROW staff to take the participant's temperature at the initial trip meeting.

**On arrival at our trip meeting point and/or orientation meeting, guests will also sign our 2021 Code of Conduct Pledge that states:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I confirm that I have not tested positive for COVID-19, had close contact with, or helped care for, anyone suspected or diagnosed as having COVID-19, or who is currently subject to health monitoring for possible exposure to COVID-19 during the 14 days prior to my ROW Adventures trip.

\_\_\_\_\_ I confirm that I have not had a fever (100.4 F° / 38 C° or higher), felt feverish, had chills, a cough, difficulty breathing or other symptoms of COVID-19 during the 14 days prior to my ROW Adventures trip.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that ROW Adventures cannot guarantee that I, or those I'm traveling with, will not become infected with COVID-19. As such, I agree to hold ROW Adventures harmless and voluntarily assume all risks and related expenses in the event that I, or any member of my traveling party, becomes infected with COVID-19.

If a participant is not able, or refuses, to answer the above questions to the affirmative, they will not be able to travel with us. Any participant that shared their physical address for the past 7 days, or anyone who has traveled with them in the past 7 days will also not be able to participate on the trip.

If a guest's temperature is 100.4, or higher, we will not let them, or any participant that shared their physical address for the past 7 days, or anyone who has traveled with them in the past 7 days to participate on the trip. In the event of this circumstance, we offer the choice of a full credit of the actual trip fees paid to ROW, or a 50% refund of fees paid. (You can protect your full trip investment by purchasing travel insurance prior to your trip.)

## III. Managing suspicion of COVID-19

In the event that there are positive symptoms for any person on the trip, we will:

1. Consult with federal and health agencies to determine availability and justification for evacuation. (Understanding that in some wilderness settings communication can be difficult or impossible.)
2. Physically distance the patient from others and require them to wear a mask for the remainder of the trip, or until evacuated from the trip.
3. Identify one liaison/caregiver to interface with the patient.
4. Follow EMS protocols and provide appropriate medical treatment.
5. Begin monitoring, document and trend temperature, oxygen saturation with a pulse oximeter (if available), and vital signs. Provide updates to medical control,

evacuating/governing agency or each area, and regional manager coordinating care and subsequent transportation, medical, and logistical support.

6. Keep hydrated. (50:50 mix electrolyte sports drink/water)
7. Quarantine.
8. Provide an isolation tent.
9. If a patient is over age 65 has previous lung or heart conditions that may compromise their immune system OR, experiences worsening conditions consider evacuation or increasing river miles and/or pace of trip to expedite advanced medical care if evacuation is not immediately available.
10. Testing is mandated at the earliest opportunity. While the test is being processed, self-quarantine in a local community hospital or lodging.
11. After evaluation care, notify appropriate agencies, all crew on that trip, and other travelers on that trip of results. Maintain HIPAA protection and confidentiality by using generic terms to describe a “traveler”, or “participant”, who has a confirmed (negative or positive) test.

#### **IV. Health management for other travelers on a trip with a suspected positive case**

1. Physically distance those family members or friends who were traveling with the person who displayed positive symptoms. Place the person on a separate raft, or specific, universally recognized and identified section of the raft, conveyance, or equipment.
2. Require face coverings for those traveling with this person. Increase temperature testing frequency to twice daily and, if available, pulse oximeter testing frequency to twice daily.
3. Communication is imperative:
  - a. Communicate with all travelers frequently. Monitor other travelers carefully.
  - b. Check-in twice daily via satellite phone (as conditions allow) with appropriate ROW Staff to communicate test results, and to receive results from the person evacuated.
4. ROW Staff will communicate with all transportation providers to prepare for protected transport at takeout.
5. During the end of trip orientation, the Team Leader will make the recommendation that all trip participants with potential exposures self-monitor and consider self-quarantine. As we know, any time we are in the public domain, it is impossible to avoid potential exposures to a host of infectious germs, viruses and diseases. Potential exposure does not necessarily mean someone is infectious to others unless the proximity and duration guidelines from the CDC are met or exceeded. Area Manager will refer to those current standards and provide all trip participants current guidance on how to best use appropriate precautions and self-monitor. Similar to traveling through an airport, grocery store, or other public space, always use good hygiene and practices.

#### **V. Management of guides who have been on a trip with a suspected positive case**

1. All guides will immediately be required to wear a face mask and will continue constant hand sanitizing and hygiene. Guests will be given the option to wear a face mask.
2. Initiate twice daily monitoring of temperature and oxygen saturation with pulse oximeter and document. Hand and surface washing combined with distancing and face coverings are critical to containment.

3. The Area Manager will collect information regarding potential exposure, including length of time, proximity, and any physical contact.
4. If it is determined that an employee is potentially infected, testing is warranted. In lieu of testing, self-quarantine at home, or in a company isolation tent or trailer for 7 days is an acceptable alternative.
5. Guides will avoid public buildings or housing until determined negative through time or testing.

This document is a living document subject to change as we learn more.