COVID-19 Field Safety Guidelines – Volunteers

Updated February 22, 2022

Grassroots Ecology is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and will be proceeding with the following safety protocols for our field programs, starting March 1, 2022. Volunteers must comply with all protocols to participate. Based on the latest County guidelines, these safety protocols may be updated at any time. Any questions or concerns about these guidelines can be directed to Valerie Lee: volunteer@grassrootsecology.org

Self-Evaluated Risk Assessment
- Staff or volunteers who feel sick, exhibit symptoms*, or who have had contact** with someone who exhibits symptoms or someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 are required to stay home
- Volunteers in an elevated risk category should consider the risks of working in outdoor public spaces

*Potential symptoms of COVID-19 = cough, fever, chills, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, disorientation, dehydration, diminished taste/smell, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches, fatigue, headache, etc.

**Contact = physical touching, sharing a household, sharing indoor space, sharing eating or drinking utensils, being within 6 feet of someone (indoors or outdoors; with/without mask) for 15 minutes or longer, or coming into contact with someone's respiratory droplets (when they sneeze, cough, talk, etc. near you)

Face Coverings
During all outdoor volunteer programs, masks are optional for all staff and volunteers.
- CDC's guide to proper mask selection and fitting

Hygiene
- Hand washing is available at most sites, and hand sanitizer will be provided at all sites
- Shared surfaces will be disinfected with alcohol between use
- Gloves and tools will be washed and sanitized with alcohol between use
- Grassroots Ecology staff may provide volunteers with water, snacks, and safety supplies such as sunblock, bandaids, and poison oak wash

Resources we are using:
- CDC: Coronavirus
- Santa Clara County Public Health Department
- San Mateo County Public Health Department