



Covid Response and Operational Protocols

Last updated 4/30/2020

Response:

The safety and well-being of our guests, staff, and community is, and remains our highest priority during this unprecedented time. Due to the developments associated with the Novel Corona Virus pandemic, travel restrictions and shelter in place protocols many who have planned or are planning trips are concerned about how to do that safely or if it is even possible. Because of the number of health risks that still remain unknown and the uncertainty of what opening businesses will look like in the future, we have taken these preemptive actions.

At this time, WRC has canceled all trips scheduled for the month of May and adjusted our trip calendar to accommodate this change. The state of Wyoming announced earlier this week that they will open some businesses like gyms and salons in early May. We will continue to monitor the situation as state and federal guidelines and restrictions are updated. For now we are still a non-essential business and while outdoor spaces have not been closed, businesses like ours remain closed. We feel it is the most

responsible thing at this time to plan no trips until mid-June and keep those tentative as we learn more about the virus, how it is passed from person to person and the risks of outdoor recreation. We feel that this measure is necessary in order to do our part in slowing the spread of COVID-19, and is in the best interest of our guests, partners, agencies, and communities that WRC works alongside.

If you book a trip, we are reserving the right to cancel the trip if local, state or federal guidelines still prohibit our business activity by the date of the trip or if we feel it is unsafe to facilitate the trip. All cancelled trips will be given refunds excluding processing fees taken by our service providers.

Please rest assured that our standard operating procedures already provide vigilant adherence to best practices for sanitation and disinfection of communal surfaces. Availability of hand washing stations and insistence on their use throughout the duration of a trip is part of our curriculum. Our staff adhere to strict guidelines for food prep, packing and clean-up. Any vehicle provided by WRC for the purpose of shuttling is cleaned and sanitized between each use and our rental gear (sleeping bags/pads, dry bags, backpacks, tents and river wear) is laundered between each trip. You can take confidence in knowing our staff is working incredibly hard at this time to ensure we meet or exceed CDC guidelines on all trips, at our private residences and at our storage facility.

WRC is staying in touch with federal, state, and local agencies as well as monitoring federal, state, and local updates to safety standards and reopening criteria. At this time limited businesses will be permitted to open in Wyoming on May 8th. Our business is not currently one of the businesses permitted to open. Our tentative schedule of available dates begins with trips on June 12th.

Update to our participation agreement, release of liability and declaration of health forms:

We are taking COVID-19 very seriously. We are also not doctors. Due to the fact that this virus can be spread by individuals having never experienced any symptoms, we have added a covid specific declaration of health form to our other waivers and releases and will be taking guests temperatures before the start of each trip:

“By signing this agreement you agree for yourself, and any minors in your care, that you have not had and have not come in contact with anyone who has had any of the following flu-like symptoms in the past 14 days: a fever, chills, shaking with no chills, loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing not associated with a pre-existing condition like exercise induced asthma, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face.

You further agree that if you have had the novel corona virus or any of the symptoms described above fewer than 14 days prior to your trip start date, you will disclose that information immediately to WRC and agree to answering further questions honestly fully recognizing you may no longer be allowed to participate. It is up to the owners of Wyoming Rivers Cooperative’s discretion whether you may participate or not. You also agree to adhere to any additional hygiene standards that may be required if you are allowed to participate, including but not limited to: Wearing freshly washed clothing before you arrive that has not been in contact with unwashed items, hands, or locations you occupied while sick; allowing clothing to be sprayed with a disinfectant upon arrival; wearing a facemask during the activity.

You further agree that if you or anyone in your care is not truthful regarding having, or having contact with or proximity closer than 6

feet to anyone carrying or known to have carried the novel corona virus who was less than fully recovered, having observed the required period of self-isolation, fewer than 14 days ago, you are liable for the entire value of Wyoming Rivers Cooperative LLC and all of our equipment plus one year of operating revenue. You further accept that intentionally withholding, omitting, or telling falsehoods about your health or the health of those in your care makes you 100% responsible for any medical bills incurred by yourself, others on the trip or others encountered during your time with Wyoming Rivers Cooperative, including but not limited to: other outdoor recreationists, gas station patrons, shop owners. You further agree that you are liable for 100% of any and all damages claimed by you or others on the trip or others encountered during your time with Wyoming Rivers Cooperative, be they guides, owners, members of the public or other participants is your care and you release all liability from Wyoming Rivers Cooperative and agree to hold them and all owners and operators harmless."

Group size and social distancing on OVERNIGHT trips

All trips will be small group sizes with a maximum of 8 participants and 2 guides on the Green River and 6 participants and 2 guides on the Sweetwater River. Each individual will have their own boat, equipment and clothing for the duration of the trip. The closest we will be on the water is likely 12-20 feet.

In camp, participants will be camping and cooking together in small groups of the people they came with (i.e. if we have three couples, they will cook and camp in 3 groups of 2). If this is a private trip, all participants will sign a waiver and declaration of health. They will cook in small groups or guides will prepare all meals.

Meals will be prepared by all parties while wearing masks and gloves.

Group size and social distancing on DAY trips

All boats will have a maximum number of 6 participants in them at one time. Before boarding the boat, all participants will be following the hygiene protocols below. While in the boat, participants will not be touching one another. Each will have a designated location within the craft.

Any food that is part of a day trip will be prepared and served by WRC guides.

Hygiene practices and protocols ALL TRIPS

Equipment cleaning:

All **raft parts, hard goods, bags** and **all paddles** used during a trip that come in contact with people will be wiped down with isopropyl alcohol or soapy water after each trip and left to sit untouched for 15 minutes in direct sunlight.

Helmets, splash tops and bottoms, gloves and **booties** used during a trip will be dunked in a bleach solution or soapy water, then rinsed in clean water. These solutions adhere to the National Institute of Health's [recommendations](#) and the [CDC](#) findings and EPA [guidelines](#). Any cleaned item will be left to dry and then placed in direct sunlight for 15 minutes again prior to it's next use.

Soft Goods (sleeping bags, etc) - Any camping equipment used overnight by our guests will be washed with soap and water in a washing machine and hung to dry in the sun. It will be fully dry, having spent an additional 15 minutes in direct sunlight before the next use.

Dry suits used on any trip will be sanitized with soap and water and left to dry. Each dry suit will be placed in direct sunlight, right side out, for 15 minutes prior to it's next use.

Vehicles used to transport any WRC participant back to their own car will be sanitized between each trip and kept clean from clutter and unnecessary objects. When using a shuttle service, we will ensure that shuttle service is meeting or exceeding the CDC guidelines for disinfecting.

Protocols while on Trips - Raft Trips

Each raft trip will begin when participants meet Wyoming Rivers Cooperative Guides or Owner/Operators at the designated put-in location.

- Each participant will be required to immediately wash their hands.
- Each participant will be required to make another “declaration of health” before the safety talk begins. WRC reserves the right to respectfully decline participation to anyone who has any of the following symptoms or has had them in the past 14 days: a fever, chills, shaking with no chills, loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing not associated with a pre-existing condition like exercise induced asthma, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face
- All participants' temperatures will be taken using an infrared thermometer. Anyone with a temperature will not be allowed to participate.
- A hand wash station and hand sanitizer will be provided any time the boat is stopped and participants are on land. Each participant will be required to wash their hands before reentering the craft.
- Any items used or worn during the trip will be cleaned before the next trip or person/s use them according to the cleaning protocols above.

Protocols while on Trips - Packraft Trips (additional highlighted)

- Each participant will be required to immediately wash their hands.
- Each participant will be required to make another “declaration of health” before the safety talk begins. WRC reserves the right to respectfully decline participation to anyone who has any of the following symptoms or has had them in the past 14 days: a fever, chills, shaking with no chills, loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing not associated with a pre-existing condition like exercise induced asthma, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face
- All participants' temperatures will be taken using an infrared thermometer. Any one with a temperature will not be allowed to participate.
- A hand wash station and hand sanitizer will be provided any time the boat is stopped and participants are on land. Each participant will be required to wash their hands before reentering the craft.
- Any persons, Guide or Participant preparing food, will be required wash their hands before beginning, wash their hands if they touch their face, wear a face mask and gloves while cooking.
- All equipment will be kept isolated by individuals in a neat and orderly manner.
- No food will be touched in it's container by any participant on our trips (i.e. food will be poured into hands or separate containers for consumption. No one will reach into a bag of snack mix) unless it is their personal food.
- All participants will follow hygiene protocols given by their Guides with regard to hand washing and disposal of human waste and washing after waste disposal.
- A hand wash station will be set up at each camp with soap and water.
- Any items used or worn during the trip will be cleaned before the next trip or person/s use them according to the cleaning protocols above.

If someone falls ill on a trip

- If a guide or guest develops flu-like symptoms during any WRC trip, per CDC guidelines, we will socially distance the/those individual(s) from the rest of the group and any community items.
- WRC will disinfect any suspected items or areas of contamination.
- The sick individual/s will be asked to wear a face covering over their mouth and nose and gloves.
- We will consult local agencies about the possibility and timeliness of an evacuation.
- If the individual requires caretaking, one designated guide will tend to the individual with appropriate personal protective equipment. That guide will remain socially distanced from the rest of the group for the remainder of the trip.

If a Guide falls ill prior to a trip

- Any guide showing flu-like symptoms less than 14 days prior to a scheduled trip start date, will be required to self-isolate and they will be pulled from all future trips until symptoms have cleared and they have been healthy for 14 days.
- If another guide is not available to pick up the trip, it will be cancelled and the participants issued a refund, less the processing fees taken by our service providers.

We are monitoring the following resources, to help inform our decision making at this time:

- [Centers For Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories](#)
- [Johns Hopkins University dashboard](#)