

# COVID-19 Safety Protocol for Stanley Park Ecology Society Fieldwork

*Updated November 2020*

These protocols are guidelines only and do not replace information provided on this subject by the Provincial Health Officer or WorkSafe BC.

## **General Work Protocols – for staff and volunteers**

All staff and volunteers must work to minimize risk of infection or transmission as much as possible. Being vigilant with Covid-19 safety will help to ensure that programs involving field work can continue. Follow BCCDC guidelines for handwashing/disinfection at home and physical distancing:

- Take precautions to ensure the health and safety of yourself, your coworkers, and your/their family members. **Everyone's health is of utmost importance.**
- When possible maintain a **distance of 2 metres** from others.
- **Non-medical masks are mandatory in situations where maintaining 2 meters distance is not possible.** Situations where masks should be worn include, but are not limited to, during orientation at the beginning of events and closing remarks at the end of events, during on-site training and plant identification. (Non-medical masks may prevent you from exposing others to your own droplets but will not necessarily decrease your own risk of infection. Any non-medical mask will have minimal effect as a protective measure if it is not used together with other preventive measures, such as frequent hand washing and physical distancing, and could offer a false sense of security.)
- **Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap is not available.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing (with a tissue or with your bent elbow; dispose of the tissue immediately in the proper waste bins).
- **Avoid touching your face** even when wearing gloves.
- Reduce in-person meetings and gatherings and hold site meetings in open spaces or outside.
- Wash clothes regularly.
- **Anyone with symptoms or feeling ill should not work.** SPES staff will provide work coverage for each other if someone falls ill.
- Contact SPES's Health & Safety Representative immediately (tel. 604-257-6908) in case you fall ill with the virus.
- If at any time during the workday, a crew member develops symptoms, the individual will be isolated and sent home alone if possible. If they must be transported by others, then the sick worker must wear a mask if available.

## Public Stewardship Events – Point of contact: Jeannine Johnstone

### Prior to the Event

- Participants to fill out a **waiver form (including updated COVID-19 guidelines)** ahead of time to be brought to the event or filled and sent digitally.
- Participants should bring their **own filled water bottle and snacks**. If any snacks are provided, they must be single-serving packages and hand sanitizer must be provided. Consider having individual water bottles in the case of emergencies or if people forget their own water.
- All leaders (staff and volunteers) should be familiar and comfortable with all event protocols prior to the event. Ensure there is an opportunity a few days before an event to **train new staff or volunteers with these protocols**.
- **Determine the maximum number of participants** allowed at a single event. This will depend on the capacity of the site and how many individuals can be present while still physically distancing.
  - o Jeannine will determine maximum participants per site or per program and make this clear
- All events will require pre-registration, **drop-in participants cannot be accommodated**. This will also allow SPES to ensure that events do not surpass the province's maximum allowable number of people per gathering.
- **Materials individuals will need to bring** and important communications:
  - o **Filled water bottle and snacks** (food will most likely not be provided at the event)
  - o **Sunscreen/hat/long sleeves** (any other gear recommended for the activity)
  - o **Work gloves and, if possible, tools**
    - If participants bring their own tools, be sure to label them
    - If tools need to be borrowed, they will be sanitized before and after use with a bleach solution
  - o **Pen** (to sign waiver forms if you have not already signed them)
  - o Information about bathroom facilities (whether they are available on site)
- SPES will provide hand tools such as hand clippers, trowels, shovels, etc. for participants. These **tools will be sanitized** with a bleach solution before and after use
- **Label equipment** for the duration of the event, so individuals can keep track of which equipment is theirs
- **Hand sanitizer should be available** at all events

### Use of gloves and vests

- Volunteers who return weekly for volunteering will be given the option to sign out a vest from SPES which they will care for
- Gloves will need to be provided by each volunteer. If a volunteer is unable to provide their own gloves for an event, they can contact the Stewardship Coordinator to work out another option. (Jeannine Johnstone, [stewardship@stanleyparkecology.ca](mailto:stewardship@stanleyparkecology.ca))

### Use of storage rooms and contained spaces – Use of the Nature House area

- Storage rooms, such as the Boathouse (at the Nature House) and Beaver Lodge (at the SPES office) **can only be used by one individual at a time**. This individual must be either a staff member or an approved volunteer team lead. These volunteers are required to wear a mask while indoors. When stewardship groups meet at the Nature House (EcoStewards and SIRT only until further notice) they **must meet on the roof** and materials will be brought up to the roof for

participants to access. This is done to minimize the number of people using the narrow walkway in front of the Nature House.

### Event introduction

- During the event introduction **review physical distancing and other COVID-19 protocols**
- Participants must remain physically distanced from others unless they are members of the same family/pod.
- Masks are required during event introductions.
- Ensure that green waste is placed where it will not restrict movement of volunteers or park goers. Arrange for pickup as soon as possible after the event
- For groups larger than 10, ensure that for every 5 individuals they have a designated leader
- Ensure participants are aware of how they use the trails and paths, so they reduce their impact on movement of park users
- In areas of high-volume park use, designate an individual to provide outreach to avoid passers-by approaching event participants. When possible place a sign on the site describing the work in progress.

### After the event

- Sanitize tools, gloves, pens and anything else participants used during the event.
- Sanitize tent legs, tables, hand washing stations, anything that people may have touched.
- As SPES does not have easy access to a washing machine, we will be unable to provide gloves or vests to individuals who are not attending events regularly and cannot wash them on their own.

## Wildlife and Habitat Surveys – Point of contact: Meghan Cooling

### Prior to the Event

- Participants to sign a **waiver form (including updated COVID-19 guidelines)** once ahead of time to be brought to the event or filled and sent digitally.
- Participants to bring their **own filled water bottle and snacks**. Consider having individual water bottles in the case of emergencies or if people forget their own water.
- Sunscreen/hat/long sleeves (any other gear recommended for the activity)
- All staff and volunteers should be familiar and comfortable with all survey protocols prior to the survey.
- **Determine the maximum number of participants** allowed at a single event. This will depend on the capacity of the site and how many individuals can be present while still physically distancing.
  - o Meghan will determine maximum participants per site or per survey and make this clear
- **Hand sanitizer should be available** at all surveys

### Use of gloves and vests

- Gloves, vests, safety glasses, and waders may sometime be needed for some surveys. When equipment is needed for a survey:
  - o Gloves: Volunteers to bring their own gloves. If they don't have any, they may borrow a pair that will get washed by SPES after one use
  - o Safety vest: Volunteers will be asked to wear flashy clothing instead of borrowing a vest
  - o Safety glasses: Will be cleaned before and after each use with bleach solution

**Use of storage rooms and contained spaces**

See Public Stewardship Events guidelines above.