



Outings Communicable Disease/Health Policy (To take effect February 22, 2023)

These procedures address how to manage individuals displaying symptoms of a communicable disease while on an outing. The policy blends the broad range of communicable health risks present on trips into a consistent approach. We will not be singling out or treating individual disease specially unless there is a significant public health requirement or local conditions demand. These new procedures will be reviewed approximately every 6-months and/or as any novel pathogens or emerging infectious diseases arise. These procedures are subject to change without notice as needed to suit the operations of Sierra Club Outings.

These procedures are to be used with ALL the [policies and guidelines](#) you've used before. For any event/activity that is **NOT** an Outing, [please go here](#).

Leaders may not exceed these requirements by choice and need to apply the standards as they are written (as an example, you may not require that everyone be vaccinated or require everyone to wear a mask for your trip if not in the guidance below). Trips may be subject to stronger requirements only from external pressures, such as land agency, local health guidance, outfitter requirement, or in-country requirements. Leaders and participants of course can choose to personally exceed procedures, but not as a rule (such as choosing to wear a mask).

'New Normal' for any Backcountry or Overnight Trips (not required for frontcountry day trips)

Medical Form	Completion of a Medical Form . Medical information is only for leader review and should be kept confidential.
Safety Management Plan	Completion of a Safety Management Plan (SMP) sent to your Outings chair, entity designee, or uploaded into Campfire Events.

- **Frontcountry** is defined as being able to access a medical facility and/or emergency personnel in under 60 minutes (including travel back to the vehicles) or a 911 area. 911 area refers to being able to both call 911 and get the patient definitive care (ambulance/hospital) within an hour.
- **Backcountry** is defined as being able to access a medical facility in 60+ minutes (including travel back to the vehicles)

Communicable Disease/Health Procedures

Vaccines	No covid vaccination required by the Sierra Club. Check local regulations to see what vaccinations may be required for your destination/venue.
Testing	No covid testing required by the Sierra Club. Check local regulations to see what testing may be required in your destination/venue. We ask that anyone who is ill consider rescheduling their outing. Please contact your trip leader if you are unable to attend. We continue to strongly encourage participants to purchase trip insurance to guard against such occurrences.
Masks	No masking required by the Sierra Club. Check local regulations to see if there are any masking requirements in your destination/venue.

<p>COVID</p>	<p>As COVID becomes endemic around the world, there is a high likelihood of someone on every Outing becoming symptomatic, and/or contracting COVID while traveling. If at any point an individual becomes too ill to continue on the outing or the illness significantly impacts the planned itinerary, the participant should be removed from the outing. See below. We encourage everyone to take personal precautions to protect their individual health.</p>
<p>Participant not healthy enough to continue on the outing</p>	<p>If anyone on the outing becomes ill and is not healthy enough to continue on the outing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is recommended the participant wear a properly fitting mask if displaying respiratory symptoms ● It is recommended the participant move into a single room/tent (see SMP section below) to be made as comfortable if possible until illness resolves or evacuation occurs <p>If a participant is ill for more than 48 hours or the illness significantly impacts the planned itinerary, the participant should be removed from the outing if possible.</p>
<p>Safety Management Plans for multi-day trips</p>	<p>Leaders of trips longer than 72 hours should include in their SMP a contingency plan for a participant or leader who becomes too ill to participate. I.e. the ability to secure a single room, solo tent, etc. for that individual if possible. Multiple sick individuals could share a single isolation space.</p> <p>Leaders will also create a contingency plan for what to do in cases where they themselves are unable to continue on the outing due to illness or injury.</p>
<p>Communication before Outing</p>	<p>In your write-up, advertisement, or trip letter, explain to participants that starting in 2023, going on a Sierra Club outing means they will be attending a trip with no vaccine, mask, or testing mandates. You should also <u>clearly</u> explain that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) If someone is sick, they should not attend the outing. b) If they develop symptoms/illness during the trip preventing them from participation they may be evacuated off the trip. c) It is their choice to attend the outing knowing this information. <p>The leader cannot and should not reveal the status of participants vaccination or reject a participant based on their covid vaccination status.</p>
<p>Incident Reporting</p>	<p>An Incident Report will be completed for any occurrence that threatens or causes personal or organizational loss including physical, emotional, or property damage.</p>

Please email [Program Safety](#) with any questions.