

TKO JANUARY 2022

COVID-19 RESTRICTION UPDATES



As we all move forward into a post-vaccination COVID environment, we understand everyone has different levels of comfort and acceptable risk. If you are not yet comfortable returning to volunteering, we support you in returning when you are ready! For those who are ready to volunteer, here are our protocols:

- Volunteer activities will follow all applicable Oregon state and county restrictions, as well as Agency guidance. Upon approval, variations may be required among counties and Agencies. TKO staff and volunteer leaders will continue to work directly with local representatives and Agency staff to coordinate and execute activities with a shared interest in mitigating risks and upholding our best efforts to create a safe and welcoming place for trail stewardship.
- Any volunteer experiencing symptoms, or who have been in close proximity to sick individuals, must stay home in quarantine [according to CDC guidance](#). A volunteer who contracts COVID-19 and suspects it occurred before, during or after an event should contact TKO immediately.
- Online sign in sheets, waivers, etc. have been adopted as permanent features of TKO programs and must be completed before each outing.

DISTANCING & MASKS CONTINUE

- [In accordance with CDC guidance](#) and order by Oregon's Governor Kate Brown in November 2021, fully-vaccinated individuals distancing and mask requirements were lifted for outdoor settings, but TKO has continued to require these restrictions and will be reevaluated at the end of February 2022.
- Participants must continue to [follow CDC guidance, TKO's Safety Policy and Procedures for a COVID-19 Environment](#) and a testing regimen found within [Addendum C - TKO Vaccine Policy](#) to protect themselves and others, including physical distancing (at least 6 feet apart from those outside their household), wearing a mask when 6-foot distancing can not be maintained and does not exceed 15 minutes during the length of the service day.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES POSTPONED

- TKO will focus on outdoor settings for in-person activities until the end of February 2022.
- Any upcoming meetings or training events will be held at sites with outdoor accommodations - crossing our fingers for better weather, but also utilizing open shelters and pavilions.
- We will also be focused on virtual meetings and classrooms when we can, developing interactive content to tackle important stewardship planning and training concepts while you plug in from home.

TKO VACCINE POLICY

- Proof of vaccination or a negative viral test will be submitted before the event. Details can be found within [Addendum C - TKO Vaccine Policy](#).
- Participants may choose to voluntarily disclose their vaccination status. No one may ask an individual about their vaccination status as it relates to any program activity with TKO.
- Preferred to be done in advance, proof verification can be done at the trailhead as staff and volunteer leaders can provide on a case by case basis.

TKO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON JANUARY 2022 RESTRICTION UPDATES

1. Is TKO still using Oregon's Risk Level by County to limit program activities? No. However, leaders should continue to work directly with the local representative or Agency staff to coordinate and execute volunteer activities as state and agency guidance and capacity can still vary.
2. Does TKO still have mandatory COVID-19 training? Aside from the in-person safety talk at each event, not for those vaccinated. Safety protocols will be readily available on TKO's website for those not vaccinated, through email and during the online project registration process. Additional training is not required.
3. Are there group size limits for TKO volunteer activities? Group size limits will be determined by state and Agency guidance. Leaders should consult with their regional coordinator while planning volunteer activities.
4. Can I still wear a mask and practice physical distancing if I'm fully-vaccinated? Yes. Fully-vaccinated participants are welcome to take these safety measures.
5. I'm not fully vaccinated. When do I have to wear a mask while volunteering? Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask outdoors when they can not avoid being within 6 feet of someone outside their household. (For example, when passing others on the trail.) Masks may be required in other circumstances, such as volunteering indoors or at an event. Please refer to CDC guidance and contact TKO staff with questions.
6. Should sign-in sheets, JHAs and other forms still be completed online? Yes. These have been adopted as permanent features of TKO'S volunteer programs and must be completed by each volunteer before each outing. We will work with volunteers who don't have internet access to sign documents another way.
7. Can volunteers share tools and equipment? Do items need to be sanitized before being shared? Tools and equipment may be shared, including trail tools and communal kitchen gear. Items do not need to be sanitized between use, however personal hygiene and sanitation are still important practices in TKO'S programs. It is still best practice to sanitize PPE such as hard hats/safety glasses/work gloves between volunteer use, to wash all cooking gear/utensils, etc.
8. Is it okay to double-buck with a crosscut saw? Yes, for vaccinated sawyers. For unvaccinated sawyers, a 7' crosscut saw provides the necessary distancing between sawyers, provided each sawyer is masked during the operation.

TKO's will continue to monitor Oregon's state and county guidelines related to COVID-19 and any changes in restrictions. If you have any additional class questions please email them to volunteers@trailkeepersoforegon.org.