

## FRIENDS OF THE TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

### FIELD PROJECT COVID-19 EPIDEMIC TRANSMISSION PREVENTION PROTOCOL

This protocol, adapted from that for the FOTNF/ASU Perry Mesa Survey Project, is intended to direct the activities of volunteers working on all FOTNF field projects during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these procedures may be in place for months or years. As might be expected, this document is subject to change. Field projects will be scheduled only when it is deemed lawful and prudent to do so; FOTNF will cooperate in full with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including temporary emergency orders.

#### COMMUNICATION

Refrain from participation in any FOTNF activity if you have symptoms of, have recently tested positive for (within 3 weeks), or believe you may have COVID-19.

Read the CDC guidelines regarding underlying conditions that would put you at high risk of severe illness and determine if your participation in the activity will unduly jeopardize your safety.

Inform the Project Leader within 24 hours of discovery if you develop symptoms (even mild ones) of COVID-19 within 14 days after a FOTNF workday.

#### GROUP SIZES

Vaccines, social distancing, contamination barriers, and a lowering of social density are our best approach to combating the pandemic. Since group size for most field or work days generally averages fewer than 10-12 people, this may not be an issue. As always, after a notice for a workday has gone out, it will be more important than ever to inform the Project Leader whether or not you intend to participate. If it appears that group size will exceed a maximum of 10 volunteers plus the Project Leader, adjustments may have to be made on a first-come/first served basis.

#### FACEMASKS

All participants must wear facemasks during the project, as per CDC recommendations. They must be worn even if you feel well and regardless of the results of any recent testing. Participants will provide their own facemasks. ***If you do not wear a mask, you will not be allowed to participate.***

#### SOCIAL DISTANCING

The basic rule will be to maintain a 6 foot distance from all other participants at all times (exceptions for family/household members). Since this is not always feasible under all field conditions, masks shall be worn at all times and participants will take care to minimize face-to-face proximity.

The same distance rule will be applied during lunch gatherings.

#### CLEANING AND SANITIZING HANDS

All participants are encouraged to wash and/or sanitize their hands per CDC guidelines prior to arrival at a work event and upon or shortly after leaving.

## USE AND CARE OF TOOLS

All participants must wear gloves when handling any communal tools or other resources. Participants will provide their own gloves. ***If you do not wear gloves for these activities, you will not be allowed to participate.***

Between fieldwork days the Project Leader will sanitize all communal tools with bleach or alcohol wipes; between work sessions, these tools will be set aside and remain unused until the next session or will be subject to additional sanitizing.

## FOOD AND WATER HANDLING

Participants will be responsible for their own food, water, and other beverages. Food and drink should not be shared among volunteers (exceptions for family/household members). Do not share water drinking bottles or larger jugs for refilling. If it is necessary to share water, sanitize any spigot, handle or other item that has come in contact with hands, mouths or bottles with bleach or alcohol wipes or other sanitization procedure. It is more important than ever for each participant to bring enough water for their own use.

## TRANSPORTATION

To maintain social distancing and sanitation, ride sharing and carpooling are discouraged for the duration of the outbreak. Transportation may be shared by individuals not practicing mutual social distancing such as members of the same family/household, but otherwise all participants should arrive at the worksite on their own. Carpooling from the meeting place to the work site is also discouraged and will be limited as much as possible. When necessary, ***all occupants in carpooling vehicles must wear masks and sanitize their hands before and after riding in the carpool vehicle or wear gloves.*** Additional spacing of vehicles in caravans will be used to provide for dust abatement; this will necessarily slow down and prolong travel time to work sites.

## CANCELLATION

The Project Leader reserves the right to immediately and arbitrarily exclude participation by individuals, conclude daily operations, and cancel any and all work sessions if participants do not adhere to these rules. This protocol is designed to establish working conditions that will keep participants healthy and alive. If those conditions cannot be met or maintained because of the actions or attitudes of any individual participant(s) the project will be shut down. In a situation like this, each of us is responsible for the safety of all of us.