

Walking Mountains Science Center  
Backcountry Programs  
Covid-19 Procedures

**Backcountry Programs Transportation & Cleaning Protocols**

The Walking Mountains Science Center van will be cleaned & sanitized following each program, and before the next program. This includes vacuuming of all surfaces and sanitization of all high touch areas including seats, handles, seat belts etc...

Windows will be kept open as much as possible while transporting program participants in the van.

**Walking Mountains Science Center guests will be required to follow proper social distance and personal hygiene practices while visiting and participating in programming.**

Hand Sanitizer will be kept in the van at all times and is to be used by all guests and staff upon entering the van for transportation.

In order to accommodate social distancing, van transportation to group hikes will be limited to 6 hikers. All other participants must drive themselves.

All program participants must carry a mask or other face covering on them for the duration of all programs. Masks must be worn when:

- In any Walking Mountains transportation vehicles
- During the pre-hike environmental briefing
- During any group educational stops, lunch, or other times on the trail where 6 foot distance is not maintained

While hiking on the trail, hikers do not need to wear their masks as long as 6 foot social distance is maintained along the trail.

**Sick Guest Protocol**

**If a hiker feels sick or develops any of the following symptoms (shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell and/or fatigue) that hiker is asked to not participate in hiking programs until they are confirmed to not carry the COVID 19 virus.**

- Hikers with noticeable symptoms while being picked up by the van, or when meeting the group at the trail-head may be asked to recuse themselves from that program.

- Any hiker who comes down with symptoms during the season will be asked to refrain from joining group hikes for 14 days or until they have been tested and confirmed negative for the COVID 19 virus.
- Positive cases of Covid-19 must be reported to Eagle County Public Health, Erica Mahone [erica.mahone@eaglecounty.us](mailto:erica.mahone@eaglecounty.us)

### **Program Changes**

**In addition to the above policies, changes have been made to certain elements of the hiking program & schedule.**

- The schedule has been adapted to only include hikes within Eagle County.
- The schedule has been adapted to feature more easily accessed hikes. Hikes that are only accessed by excessively rough roads, or excessively long drives have been excluded from the 2020 schedule. While some further out trailheads on dirt roads are still included, the schedule has been adapted to feature more of the easier accessed trailheads in the Eagle Valley.

### **Staff Protocol**

**In addition to following all the above protocol, Walking Mountains Science Center staff will be required to follow additional procedures prior to interacting with the general public.**

All staff must undergo self health checks before every shift, and communicate with a supervisor if experiencing any COVID related symptoms.

If during a work day, a staff member feels sick or develops any of the following symptoms (shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell and/or fatigue), the following protocol will be put in place:

- The staff experiencing new symptoms will be sent home.
- The staff member's temperature will be checked utilizing the Temperature Screening Protocol (see below).
- The Community Programs Director will document symptoms and communication.
- Positive cases of Covid-19 must be reported to Eagle County Public Health, Erica Mahone [erica.mahone@eaglecounty.us](mailto:erica.mahone@eaglecounty.us)

Staff must properly wash reusable cloth face covering/mask with soap and water and dry in the sun or with heat after each day of use and prior to their next work shift.