

## CFI Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic – A Guide for Participants

Thank you and Welcome for joining CFI for an educational adventure during our 2020 field season. The health and safety of our guests, staff, and general public are a top priority for CFI, and we have instituted some specific policies and procedures in addressing the current health crisis. Note that these new protocols are specific to the COVID-19 pandemic response, and are supplemental and in addition to all of our normal operating standards and best practices. They are in line with, and informed by, guidelines and policies issued by state, local, and federal government authorities including the CDC, the Southeastern Utah Health Dept., and the National Park Service, as well as the Utah Guides & Outfitters Association.

Our equipment, vehicles, boats, and other gear are being routinely cleaned and disinfected between uses and programs. Our staff is being routinely screened & monitored, and in most cases tested for symptoms and/or infection, and of course any staff member who is symptomatic or tested positive is restricted from working on programs with our guests. We have specific protocols in place to minimize and mitigate risk of infection in our workplace (offices, warehouse, etc.).

As for you, our guest, please note the following:

- You will be asked to complete a screening questionnaire prior to your arrival at the start of the program. This will be a series of questions regarding your own possible symptoms and possible exposure BEFORE you get here. In some cases, guests with a high-risk potential (ie: symptomatic for COVID-19, or tested positive) may be restricted from participating until they provide professional medical assurance of being non-infectious. This survey must be completed no earlier than 3 days before you arrive, and can be completed quickly and easily online.
- It is recommended that people who are considered as “high risk for severe illness” from COVID-19 are advised not to participate on overnight and/or backcountry programs/trips. Risk factors and conditions may include, but are not limited to: aged 65 years or older, chronic lung/respiratory disease, severe obesity, heart disease, chronic kidney disease or diabetes, chronic liver disease, and/or any other immunocompromised or underlying condition. If you are subject to any of these factors or conditions, please contact CFI well in advance of your program to discuss.
- All guest/participants are strongly encouraged to self-monitor (check for symptoms, temperature, etc.), and to limit their potential exposure while “out in public” for at least 14 days prior to joining a trip/program, in accordance with CDC and Health Department guidelines at a minimum.
- ALL guest/participants are strongly advised to “travel safely” while enroute to the start of any CFI programs, and to practice extreme diligence in regards to social distancing, proper hygiene, wearing masks, and all other guidelines to minimize their exposure while travelling. In particular they should be advised to consider alternatives to any mode of travel that requires close contact with other individuals (airplanes, busses, etc.).
- When you arrive at the start of your program, the Trip Leader will review with you your screening questionnaire, verify if anything has changed, and take your temperature. In some cases (such as recording a temperature of 100.4 deg.F or higher) guests, and their immediate traveling party) may be restricted from joining the program.
- You will be expected to bring at least one facemask (or face covering) with you to the program, as it will be a requirement to wear one at certain times (ie: in vehicles, at close quarters with others, etc.). We highly recommend that you bring more than one. CFI can and will provide sufficient masks for those that don't have them or have forgotten them.
- Guest participants will be screened on a daily basis (generally in the morning) for developing symptoms. Guests are expected to be honest and forthcoming during these screenings. Any guests who exhibit symptoms will be immediately isolated, and/or quarantined, from the rest of the group. In some cases evacuations will be considered and/or enacted.

- You will be expected to assume and maintain proper “social distancing” (ie: 6 feet separation from others) whenever possible. There will be times that this will not be possible or practical; at such times you will be expected to wear a facemask. NOTE - This “social distancing” applies to family/home/travelling groups as such: persons within those groups can be closer together (meaning a family that lives together could be together in a boat without masks), but those distinct groups must maintain proper social distancing from other groups or individuals.
- Each guest/participant will be assigned (if they are using CFI gear) individually labelled PFDs, sleeping bags, pads, tents, etc. These will be for use only by that particular guest for the duration of the program.
- Hand wash stations, hand sanitizers, and other hygiene/sanitation equipment will be made available throughout the program. In particular, all guests will be required to clean and/or sanitize their hands before getting into vehicles, before and after participating in “fire lines” while moving group gear, etc. Frequent and thorough handwashing will be encouraged throughout the program.
- At meal times, guests will be required to wear masks and gloves while collecting food from the buffet tables (they can take them off to actually eat). Disposable, single-use gloves will be provided for this purpose. Some items, such as desserts or appetizers, may be served individually by guides. Please maintain proper social distancing while in the food line, the dish line, or while eating.
- You are encouraged to bring your own water bottle or canteen, and to use it exclusively for the duration of the program. You will be required wash and/or sanitize your hands before filling your container from the group dispenser.

**PLEASE NOTE!!!** We are doing the best we can to reasonably minimize and mitigate the risks of infection from COVID-19. These protocols and procedures are for your safety, and for the safety of everyone else. However, we cannot completely eliminate all possible or potential exposures. There is some risk of exposure to COVID-19 while participating in these programs. All guest/participants must understand that they are legally assuming that risk, and that CFI will not be held responsible or liable for any participant contracting a coronavirus while on our programs. Please note that this language is specific in our Risk & Release Waiver form that all participants (or their legal guardians) are required to sign.

All that being the case, much of the risk of exposure to COVID-19 arises from being in close proximity (less than 6’ distant for 15 minutes or more) to other, possibly infected, persons **in enclosed spaces**. That “in enclosed spaces” is a key point of consideration. By design, participating in CFI programs and trips means that you are *outdoors*. The GREAT OUTDOORS! Not only is being outside good for the body/mind/spirit, it also just happens to be very well ventilated.....just the place to be to help minimize your risk of exposure to airborne contaminants. “Being outside” doesn’t eliminate the risk, but it does help.

Please follow these protocols, stay safe, and help protect not only yourself but everyone you are sharing this place with (as well as your loved ones back home when you see them post-trip!). Stay safe, and enjoy being outside.