

Idaho outfitters should have an operational plan in place to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 to participants. Their plan should supplement industry-specific guidance. The outfitters' COVID-19 operational and mitigation protocols included in their plans should consider each individual outfitter's particular circumstances and activities, as well as their employees, guests, and local communities. The plans should also align with state and local orders and directives for COVID-19. Plans do not need to be submitted for review or approval. However, to ensure confidence of employees, guests and administrators, outfitters are encouraged to make their plans available if requested.

Outfitting operations are diverse. Protocols may be appropriately tailored to promote COVID-19 mitigation for each type of operation. Outfitters are service providers to the general public in Idaho's outdoors. Clients will be in groups from 1 to sometimes 50 or more. Outfitters hire guides as employees to service their guests. Activities range from whitewater rafting and kayaking to horseback riding, hunting, fishing, scenic jetboat tours, ATV/UTV tours, backpacking, packing, etc. Trip durations range from several hours to over seven days. Trip locations vary, but generally take place in remote, backcountry locations and are always outdoor-based.

1. Ensure employee training on COVID-19.

- Outfitters should provide training in a way that is readily understandable by all employees, including in multiple languages, if needed. Training should cover, at a minimum:
 - What COVID-19 is and how it is spread.
 - Symptoms of COVID-19 and when to seek medical care.
 - How to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others if you are sick.
 - What to do if an employee is sick
 - Measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the workplace.
 - Local and state regulations about COVID-19
- Outfitters who utilize seasonal employees should reference the State's COVID-19 Guidance for Onboarding Seasonal Workers in Idaho [<https://rebound.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/protocols-onboarding-seasonal-workers.pdf>] located on the Rebound Idaho website

2. Establish protocols to maintain at least six (6) feet physical distance, where possible, between employees, clients, vendors, and service providers.

- Physical distancing should be practiced to the extent possible whether outdoors, in vehicles, or in structures.
- If physical distancing is not possible, develop a protocol for disease mitigation that includes face coverings, ventilation and other measures; train employees and inform patrons, others about these practices
- Establish work practices and workstations, and workstations, and adjust trip packing, rigging, and other processes, when possible, to enable employees to maintain a safe physical distance while working.

3. Establish protocols to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 among employees, patrons, and associated service providers in the course of a trip.

- Consider how to space guests according to current guidelines, e.g., in food lines, eating meals, hiking, camping, and at orientations and interpretive stops, etc.
- Attempt to arrange groups who live or travel together, and other inherent groupings, together but separated from other similar groups to the , extent possible.
- Instruct clients, guides, and staff to avoid physical contact with one another, e.g., hugs, high-fives, handshakes, etc.
- Consider use of cloth facial covering or masks for guide employees, support staff and outfitted clients where possible
 - Cloth face coverings are not advised for employees and support staff and outfitted clients in water per CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>
- For each unique activity provided, develop a set of guidelines that considers, when reasonably feasible, assigning individual client equipment/gear for the duration of the trip, e.g., paddles, helmets, lifejackets, tack, tents, harnesses, gloves, bikes, etc., and ensuring those items remain separated.

**CONTINUES ON
NEXT PAGE**

4. Identify how the employer will provide adequate sanitation and promote personal hygiene for guides, guests, associated service providers and employees.

- Establish procedures for routine cleaning and disinfection of commonly touched surfaces and objects (e.g., water containers, boats and other trip gear, kitchen implements and surfaces, shared tools)
- Ensure that toilet facilities and equipment and handwashing facilities are accessible and are maintained to stay clean and sanitary.
- Ensure easy access to necessary supplies (e.g., soap, clean running water, single use paper towels, hand sanitizer that is at least 60 percent alcohol) for hand washing and for hand sanitizing.
- Plan for safe use of cleaners and proper disinfectants (see list: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticideregistration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>).
- Consider other workplace practices to support personal hygiene such as: building additional short breaks into guide and trip schedules to increase how often participants can wash their hands; providing tissues and no-touch trash receptacles; educating workers that cigarettes and smokeless tobacco use can lead to increased contact between potentially contaminated hands and their mouths and that avoiding these products may reduce their risk of infection.
- Inform guides, employees and guests that contracted services and providers, e.g., bus/air-transport and catering services, may have different protocols for sanitation and personal hygiene than the outfitter themselves may provide.

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5. Identify strategies for pre-screening guests, clients, and employees for COVID-19 diagnoses, symptoms and potential exposures to COVID-19., See [COVID-19 Guidance for Onboarding Seasonal Workers in Idaho](#),

- People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills or shaking chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain can also occur.

6. Update employee illness policy and provide COVID-19 staff training. Considerations might include:

- Monitor employee health by screening employees for fever and symptoms before every shift.
 - Check temperature with non-contact thermometer; if no fever, which is a temperature greater than 100.4°F, and no COVID-19 symptoms are present, require workers to self-monitor and report onset of symptoms during their trip
- Inform staff regarding when they should stay home or when they should leave work due to illness
- Make sure a procedure is in place for contacting your local public health district if an outfitter, employee, or client is diagnosed with or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19

7. Develop plans for staff, clients, or patrons who become ill with COVID-19-like symptoms during their trips.

- Make sure the plan includes how to isolate the ill person, including provision of cloth face covering or mask.
- Make sure the plan includes how to seek medical attention and addresses COVID-19 test availability and turnaround time.

**CONTINUES ON
NEXT PAGE**

Resources:

- CDC recreational guidance:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/index.html>
- CDC consideration for camps:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>
- EPA list of COVID-19 effective disinfectants:
<https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm>
- Coronavirus (COVID-19). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.htm>
- Idaho Recreate Responsibly Resources/Guidance:
<https://www.coronavirus.idaho.gov/recreate-responsibly/>