



FRIENDS COVID-19 EVENT FAQS

- *What are your COVID-19 safety protocols?*

Friends believes that vaccination is a commitment to safety in our work to protect, preserve, and steward the Columbia Gorge for future generations. Vaccination is the current best way to protect those most vulnerable when working in public settings.

Given the nature of our outdoor and volunteer stewardship programs it is impossible to provide a completely risk-free environment, but to limit the risk of transmission to any attendees, staff, or Friends volunteers we're asking that all registrants for Friends outdoor programs, stewardship activities, and other Friends events:

- provide proof of full vaccination;
- complete the CDC's online Coronavirus Self-Checker within 48 hours prior to the event; and
- follow any applicable federal, state, county or Friends COVID-19 safety guidance given by Friends staff or volunteers during the outing or event.

- *Why are you requiring proof of vaccination?*

Friends asks for proof of vaccination to monitor that everyone is adhering to our commitment to safety. Some Friends program participants, volunteers, or staff may live with unvaccinated individuals, including children, and others with immunocompromised individuals.

Friends guidelines are subject to change and will continue to be based on the guidelines set out by the U.S. Center for Disease Control as well as state and local guidance and restrictions.

- *How do I show proof of vaccination?*

- Email photo of vaccination card to Friends staff after registering for an event, or
- Present photo of vaccination card or your physical card at event check-in to a Friends staff or volunteer leader.
 - Only need to show card once. Friends will log for future reference that we've seen your proof of vaccination. No personal information or photos will be stored.



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- *I am fully vaccinated. How do I sign up for an event?*
 - Event registration is through Eventbrite.
 - During the registration process you will be prompted to:
 - Read and agree to the Liability Waiver
 - Agree you will show proof of vaccination to Friends staff or volunteer leader
 - Complete [CDC Self Checker](#) within 48 hours of event

- *Can I bring or sign up my kids?*

Only youth who are fully vaccinated may register or attend events at this time.

- *What about masks?*

Masks are not required at Friends events, as per recently changed guidance from the states of Washington and Oregon. Friends' guidelines are subject to change and will continue to be based on the guidelines set out by the U.S. Center for Disease Control as well as state and local guidance and restrictions.

Please remember that we lead with good intentions and if someone asks you to wear a mask around them or to socially distance, we ask that out of concern for each other you to please comply.

- *What about carpools?*

Staff are not currently facilitating carpools for Friends events.

Friends is looking into a new system for participants to carpool and rideshare that both takes into account changing health guidance and better serves Gorge community members, Washington residents, and those in the greater Portland Metro area that weren't well served by our previous system.

We ask for your patience as we work through this current period and announcements on changes will be made on Friends' website.

- *Do I need to bring my own tools and gloves to stewardship activities?*

No, Friends staff will bring tools and gloves to each event for volunteers to borrow and you also are welcome to bring your own. A tool list will be provided before each event, and all borrowed tools will be sanitized after the work party.



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- *What other COVID-19 safety protocol is Friends following at events?*
 - Friends is only leading small group events (5-15 participants).
 - Events will be structured so that participants can maintain 6 feet of physical distance with those outside their household.
 - Please seek consent before entering another person's space and be respectful if asked to stay farther away.
- *What about other Friends events (annual meeting, annual picnic, Gorge on Tap, community forums, etc).*

We are currently asking that participants at all Friends events show proof of vaccination. We hope to be able to offer other in-person programs and events later this summer and fall.

- *When will Friends decide to cancel an outdoor event?*

Events will be canceled due to low registration, or if it's the best decision for public health and safety, or federal, state, county guidance. Attendees will be notified as far in advance as possible. We ask for your patience as we work through this current period.