

North Texas Master Naturalist COVID Safety and Response Guidelines

June 1, 2021

Until further notice, the North Texas Master Naturalist Program will operate under the following guidelines for NTMN community and youth education, training, outreach and service projects. The board will continue to monitor conditions and update the guidelines as needed. **By participating in any in-person activity with NTMN, you agree to abide by these COVID Safety and Response Guidelines.**

Volunteers are encouraged to evaluate their own comfort, risk, health, and safety when considering meetings and volunteer service opportunities. If you are in a vulnerable or 'high risk' category or are uncomfortable participating in group events, please continue to consider remote service opportunities where possible.

Virtual meeting platforms should be used whenever possible. For all in-person events, meetings or service projects, volunteers must comply with applicable requirements. Individual service projects may have additional safety considerations. If project sites or local requirements are more restrictive, NTMN volunteers are to follow the more restrictive guidelines.

General Health and Safety Guidance:

- Remain at home if you're not feeling well or have a fever.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer often.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- If you travel to certain high-risk areas, please self-quarantine for the recommended time.
- Any surfaces that are touched often should be disinfected regularly.
- Tools and equipment should be sanitized regularly and not be shared between households.
- If you are diagnosed with or exposed to a person with COVID-19, please self-quarantine for at least 10 days. Please notify the project leader if you have recently volunteered.
- By participating in any in-person activity with NTMN, you agree to abide by these COVID Safety and Response Guidelines.

For all NTMN Activities: It is very important to know and follow all federal, state, county and local COVID guidelines restrictions before conducting NTMN activities or events.

Beyond these, please consider the following in planning gatherings:

1. Virtual meeting platform tools are useful and should remain an important consideration for planning meetings and events.
2. For any indoor or outdoor activities that do occur in-person, masks and social distancing considerations are encouraged.

Please note regarding vaccines: Our program and agencies currently have no legal authority to develop policy based on private health information at this time and we don't anticipate the program drafting its own policy or allowances addressing whether individuals (members or the public) with vaccines can/cannot participate in any NTMN activities and where, when and how.

NTMN members or members of the public should not be asked about their vaccination status.

There shall be NO EFFORT (including casual comments made publicly or privately) to DISCOURAGE the use of face coverings or any COVID related safety precaution. Those who wish to wear masks and practice COVID protocols should be respected and their wishes supported.

For further information please email activities@ntmn.org.