

**Native Plant Salvage Foundation:**  
**Revised Covid-safe Protocols: Winter/Spring 2022**

**Background:** As with the pre-vaccination era, our first goal is everyone's health and safety! Protection of all participants is an obligation we all share, and these protocols regarding face masks, vaccination status and physical distancing were developed with that in mind. Additionally, to prevent the loss of participation by members of our group who have a low-risk tolerance, our protocols will be set for the comfort level of **those** individuals, as participants with high-risk tolerance can adapt to more conservative measures.

**Face masks:** Face masks are required during participation in NPSF events. Masks will still be considered our number-one safety measure for prevention of disease transmission. All participants must plan to bring masks with them to our events, or use one of the masks we provide.

**Vaccination status:** As of February 2022, everyone eligible (over the age of 5) participating as learners or volunteers for in-person NPSF events must declare their up-to-date vaccination status and (one time) show proof of vaccination. This could mean two vaccine doses plus a booster if eligible. The vaccination declaration will be noted on the **liability waiver**. For those who attend multiple events, showing proof of vaccination *one time* is sufficient. **Voluntary:** It is not required to share vaccination proof; however, without proof of positive vaccination status, participants will **not** be eligible to participate in in-person NPSF events. Participation options will include on-line learning and volunteer activities that can be performed from home.

Acceptable proof of vaccination is a vaccination card or a photo or screenshot of the vaccination card. **Vaccination status will be verified privately and participants may not share documents via email.** Participants will hold and keep all documentation.

**For all participants:** Masks will still be required when working within **close proximity (within ~6 feet)** to any other participant (except participants in the same bubble). Any time another participant feels uncomfortable with lack of masking/proximity, others are asked to please don their masks as a courtesy (including slightly wider spacing than 6 feet). If a participant feels uncomfortable asking others to wear their mask, they should

immediately separate themselves from the unmasked participant and *approach a group leader* to discuss their concerns. NPSF group leaders will manage the situation to ensure safety and security for all participants; management strategies will include physical distancing, masking, and adherence to sanitation practices.

**All participants are encouraged to feel comfortable wearing their masks consistently.**

Everyone should be prepared to wear their masks more rather than less to ensure that all participants feel safe and secure. Moreover, it should be understood by all participants that any group event carries risks of contracting Covid-19 and each participant takes responsibility for ensuring their own safety by following state and federal prevention guidelines.

**Encounters with others not participating in activity:** Depending on the field event, other individuals may cross paths with our participants (e.g., other trail users at McLane Creek, County or DOT staff checking in with volunteers or group leaders, plant sale customers). Any time an individual who has not been cleared through NPSF's protocols is in proximity with our program's participants, volunteer team members must raise their masks until that person is no longer nearby.

**Eating/drinking:** Participants are asked to please separate themselves from others by 10 feet or more to eat or drink.

**Proximity to children:** Participation by children (who are too young to be vaccinated) increases risks for both the children and nearby adults. To protect both parties, all participants should be especially mindful of maintaining face mask coverage when children are on the field site.

**Sanitation:** We will still maintain sanitation protocols enacted in the pre-vaccine era, including use of alcohol-based (or other) sanitation spray, regular sanitation of pens and other shared implements, and regular sanitation of all tools and equipment. Participants will be required to wear gloves and wash their hands at events at the NPSF nursery and for all field-based volunteer events. Laminated sheets provided for field-based education will be shared by people in the same bubble and will be sanitized between uses.

**Indoor events:** At this time, NPSF does not plan to hold indoor events, except by Zoom or other electronic means. When we return to indoor events, we will evaluate the safety concerns and current health recommendations at that time to develop new policies. For now, any indoor encounters should be supported by masks worn by all participants, and use of all possible ventilation.