

# Eastern Division - COVID19 Training Guidelines

## Summer-Fall 2021

*In light of the Delta Variant, the CDC has once again revised their guidelines and now are advising that fully vaccinated people should wear a mask when indoors in public settings, a change from earlier advice that the fully vaccinated were able to interact without masks or social distancing. See this link for more information:*

*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>*

The following proposal updates the position taken by the BOD in March 2021 in regard to all Division and Regional training/testing events.

### Vaccination and Program Administration for NSP Eastern Division Training Events

The Eastern Division **Strongly Recommends Vaccination** of all patrollers and participants. In addition, all CDC, state and local guidelines should be followed as well as any parameters set forth by the hosting venue (mountain, park, fire house, church, etc). BSI, Be prepared, Be alert, Be clean - these all still apply!

**Any Region** event must:

- Be specifically approved beforehand by the Region Director.
- Have a **written operations plan**, including defined leadership and command structure with safety officers, submitted to the RD from the event coordinator/IOR prior to approving it.
- Have **plans** that address **how the event** will be **conducted in compliance** with the CDC, state and local guidelines. Each RD may specify how far in advance they need the request before rendering a decision.
- Include **registration** for all attendees (**required**).
- **Event administrators (IT/IOR/Program Admin) can establish additional attendance guidelines/requirements.**
- **Document** that participants have **shown** properly executed **vaccine cards** and record the name of each participant that has shown their card confirming vaccination status (RD or designee including IOR or IT is responsible for confirming documentation).\*
- Ensure IOR **confirm that all personnel** (IT's, Instructors/Evaluators, patients, etc.) **are approved by mountain management (or venue)** in the early planning stages of the event.
- Ask that participants **"self-certify"** that they are healthy and come prepared with face coverings and gloves. Bottom Line: If you are feeling ill, **STAY HOME!**
- Ensure access to hand-washing stations and /or hand sanitizer.
- Provide training for new candidates and patrollers with questions on proper PPE, hand washing, cleaning and disinfecting, and review the COVID19 questions.
- Eating and drinking pose an increased risk of transmission and should be handled accordingly. Minimize or eliminate food offerings in a group setting. If food is offered, meals should be done in a manner that minimizes the threat of cross contamination. The rules of social distancing still apply.
- Have garbage bags set up for refuse.
- Have additional supplies on hand - surgical masks, gloves, face shields, hand sanitizer.
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces and equipment – post event.

\* The purpose of documenting vaccines is for tracking and safety, not policing, in the event of an outbreak, that information will be needed. Copies of the cards are not to be retained.

**Indoor Events** will require *all participants to wear masks and comply with the 6-ft social distancing guidelines to the extent practicable for ALL participants, regardless of vaccine status, consistent with CDC, state and local guidance.*

**Unvaccinated participants** must follow the established guidelines previously described (masks, social distancing, safety precautions) regardless of whether the event is indoors or outdoors. ***If this conflicts with the participant's view, and the participant is unwilling to adhere to the above, they are not able to participate.***

**Outdoor Events** will require **unvaccinated participants to don masks** and adhere to the 6-ft social distance guideline to the greatest extent practical. **Vaccinated participants** at outdoor events **do not need** to wear face coverings unless a 6-ft social distance is unable to be maintained.

In addition, **all participants (unvaccinated and vaccinated)** must complete the following questions: (with all negative responses):

1. In the last 24 hours, have you had fever, chills, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea?
2. Any new or unusual cough, shortness of breath, headache, or sore throat?
3. Any new loss of smell or taste?
4. To your knowledge, have you been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive patient for a prolonged period of time?
5. Have you had direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 patient (e.g. being coughed on by a COVID-19 positive patient) while NOT wearing PPE, including a face mask?

Region Directors would be empowered to approve events under the above conditions in their Regions without further approval by this BOD. Nothing in the above proposal shall negate or otherwise relieve the RD and IOR of the responsibility to conduct any event in accordance with CDC, state and local guidelines.

**Please utilize the new "NSP Event/Training Release Forms" found on [www.NSPeast.org](http://www.NSPeast.org) under the resources, forms/documents tab.**

Upon adoption of this proposal, the COOPED-UP Task Force will be charged with updating the Division guidance documents to include changes made in this proposal.

These guidelines will be revisited as necessary, and the National Ski Patrol, Eastern Division, Board of Directors reserves the right to update and change this document at any time.

Revised: 08/23/2021