

Columbia River Kayaking Covid-19 Guidelines

1. Columbia River Kayaking (CRK) will utilize on-line or phone reservation systems to pre-pay and limit interactions, and restrict payments to credit cards only to eliminate the handling of cash.
2. CRK will send liability waiver to participants via email before they arrive. Participants will sign, scan and send in waivers electronically before arrival. If they have not done so, paper waivers may be used if they sign with their own pen or wash hands after signing.
3. During Phase 1 of Safe Start Washington clients for guided tour trips must all be from the same household with a maximum of 8 participants. In Phase 2, groups of mixed households are allowed, with a maximum of 8 households and a maximum of 12 individuals in a group. In Phase 2, overnight trips are allowed. Social distancing still required between participants of different households.
4. When participants arrive, each household may choose an area on the benches outside the kayak shop to stage their gear that is at least 6 feet from other households' areas. Guides will select and bring out personal flotation device (PFD), spray skirt, pump, paddle, and any optional additional equipment to each participant. Guides will handle participants' equipment while wearing a mask, with gloves or freshly washed hands. Guides will demonstrate how gear is fitted so that participants may correctly put on and adjust PFD and spray skirt.
5. Guide will select kayaks for each participant and instruct on how to adjust foot pedals. If the guide needs to make any adjustments or repairs to the kayak, he or she will let the participant get out before the guide works on it while wearing a mask, using freshly washed hands or gloves.
6. Only one group at a time will be permitted to get outfitted and launch.
7. Guides will regularly sanitize countertops, hand rails, door knobs, and other common surfaces. Hand sanitizer will be available for staff and clients on a table just outside the kayak shop door entrance. The kayak shop bathroom will be sanitized after each household's use, including toilet, sink, countertop, and doorknob.
8. During Phase 3, when groups are launching from a location other than Viewpoint Landing, they will drive their own vehicle(s). Columbia River Kayaking will not schedule any one-way tours requiring guides to shuttle participants until Phase 4. At Phase 4, shuttle groups must either be all from the same household or be able to seat themselves in the van with social distancing of six feet. Driver and riders must all wear masks when within the vehicle. All those riding in the CRK van must have their temperature taken; in order to enter the vehicle, they must have a temperature below 100.4 degrees F.

9. While paddling, participants from different households must maintain a distance of six feet. Exceptions: A. If a participant capsizes, a guide is needed to help a participant back into a kayak. B. A guide may need to perform an emergency repair on a kayak on the water. The guide should put on a mask before assisting the participant unless conditions are too rough to do so safely or the extra time taken to do so would further endanger the participant.

10. At the end of each tour, all participant PFD's, spray skirts, and spray jackets must be washed, then left to hang in a designated area of the kayak shop for three days before they can be used by another participant. Each group's equipment will be labeled with the date until it can be returned to hang with the equipment that is ready for use. Alternatively, all PFD's may be disinfected in an approved disinfectant solution if they are needed sooner than the three-day period.

11. After the tour, each kayak will be sprayed with disinfectant and wiped down after the recommended waiting period. The parts that must be sprayed are the deck, fittings, cockpit, and seat. The kayak then will be washed with a power washer, followed by vacuuming with a shop vacuum to remove the water. Paddles shafts will be sprayed with disinfectant and wiped down after the recommended waiting period, then rinsed.

12. Participants must cancel if they have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell. They can reschedule with no penalty when they are feeling better.

13. A follow-up email will be sent to participants, requesting them to report if they have developed any Covid-19 symptoms. If they have, CRK will follow up by reporting to local health authorities.

14. Columbia River Kayaking will keep up to date on all changes issued by the Office of the Governor, the Department of Labor & Industries, and the Department of Health.

COVID-19 is primarily transmitted through expiration (breathing out) of a sick person and those droplets getting inhaled by a healthy person. The next most likely route of transmission is touching something that had infected material on it and transferring that into the eyes, nose or mouth. Unfortunately a person may have the disease, feel well, and transmit it to others, all before they show any symptoms. To prevent transmission the recommendations are to wash hands frequently, ideally with soap and water but at least with 60% alcohol hand sanitizer; wear face coverings (to reduce the risk of transmission from you to a healthy person); stay home when sick; cover coughs and sneezes; social distance (staying 6 feet away from people); work from home where possible; frequently sanitize commonly touched surfaces; and health screen employees and visitors when they come to a workplace.