



At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic the ATA, like most other organizations tasked with monitoring and maintaining outdoor recreation amenities, implemented a set of protocols designed to provide the greatest possible protection for staff and volunteers while still engaging in the activities necessary to achieve our mission. These protocols were based upon guidance from the CDC, local governments, and land management agencies. Precautions included limiting group sizes, recommendations for social distancing, requiring facial masks, and detailed instructions for the sanitization of shared surfaces.

As understanding of the transmission of the virus increased and effective vaccines became widely available, the necessity for such restrictive measures has decreased. In response to these changing conditions, the ATA will be observing the following protocols to continue to provide safe, rewarding experiences for staff and volunteers during our field activities:

COMMUNICATION

- Each staff member and volunteer should continue to self-evaluate their own condition prior to participation in any ATA activity. This evaluation should include known exposure to the contagion, and also symptoms, general health and underlying medical conditions which could put you at higher risk of illness.
 - **Staff and Volunteers will refrain from participation in any activity on the AZT if they have symptoms of or believe they may have COVID-19.**
 - Please inform the ATA if you develop symptoms (even mild ones) of COVID-19 within 14 days after an ATA activity (within 24 hours of discovery).

VACCINATION

- The ATA encourages staff and volunteers to receive the vaccine as they are eligible. The ATA will not check vaccination status of volunteers.

PRECAUTIONS

- As per CDC recommendations, fully vaccinated individuals may resume activities without wearing masks or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state or local laws.
- Face masks and maintain social distancing practices are still recommended for un-vaccinated individuals.
- Tool sanitization procedures are no longer required during or between events.
- Handwashing and proper hygiene practices are still highly encouraged during extended field activities.
- Food handling, water and kitchen restrictions have been lifted.
- Vaccinated individuals may resume ride sharing and carpooling as they choose. We will continue to limit staff transportation of volunteers or participants.

GROUP SIZES

- The ATA will continue to restrict group sizes to limit the potential for pathogen spread until such time as limitations are deemed no longer necessary.

The ATA thanks volunteers, supporters and trail users for keeping the trail as a place of safety and refuge in these uncertain times.