

COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Phased Volunteer Reengagement

As we begin to phase back to volunteer operations on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, it is important that individual volunteers have knowledge of potential risks they face, so they are able to make informed self-assessments and decisions.

The chart below is a snapshot of known COVID-19 cases, and deaths, by counties where Ice Age Trail chapters are located. The data comes from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/county.htm> as of May 18, 2020. It is subject to change as more cases are reported.

The last box on the right, Relative Chance of Exposure, is not a guaranteed rating of your risk. It merely reflects the relative number of cases reported so far, compared to one portion of the state against another.

People visit the Ice Age Trail from many places. A chapter located in a county that has zero reported COVID-19 cases has no guarantee that a visitor from another area who is infectious didn't touch the same brochure box that you are planning to restock.

Still, we base our risk assessment calculations from the data on hand. Looking at chapters from west to east, the data provides us this snapshot:

| Chapter | County | COVID Cases/Deaths As of 05/18/20 | Total Chapter Area COVID Cases/Deaths | Relative Chance of Exposure |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Indianhead | Polk | 6 cases 0 deaths | 8/1 | LOW |
| | Burnett | 2 cases 1 deaths | | |
| Superior Lobe | Barron | 11 cases 0 deaths | 12/0 | LOW |
| | Washburn | 1 case 0 deaths | | |
| Blue Hills | Rusk | 4 cases 0 deaths | 4/0 | LOW |
| Chippewa Moraine | Chippewa | 41 cases 0 deaths | 41/0 | MEDIUM |
| High Point | Taylor | 0 cases 0 deaths | 0/0 | LOW |
| Northwoods | Lincoln | 3 case 0 deaths | 3/0 | LOW |
| Langlade Co. | Langlade | 0 cases 0 deaths | 0/0 | LOW |
| Central Moraines | Marathon | 33 cases 1 death | 33/1 | MEDIUM |
| Portage/Waupaca Co. | Portage | 7 cases 0 deaths | 24/1 | MEDIUM |
| | Waupaca | 17 cases 1 death | | |
| Waushara Co. | Waushara | 7 cases 0 deaths | 7/0 | LOW |
| Marquette Co. | Marquette | 3 cases 1 death | 3/1 | LOW |
| Baraboo Hills | Columbia | 36 cases 1 death | 113/4 | MEDIUM |
| | Sauk | 77 cases 3 deaths | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|---|
| Lodi Valley | Columbia | 36 cases | 1 death | 36/1 | MEDIUM |
| Dane Co. | Dane | 538 cases | 25 deaths | 538/25 | HIGH |
| Rock Co. | Rock | 301 cases | 9 deaths | 301/9 | HIGH |
| Walworth/Jefferson Co. | Walworth | 284 cases | 12 deaths | 345/14 | HIGH |
| | Jefferson | 61 cases | 2 deaths | | |
| Waukesha/Milwaukee Co. | Waukesha | 482 cases | 23 deaths | 5,487/279 | HIGH |
| | Milwaukee | 5,005 cases | 256 deaths | | |
| Washington/Ozaukee Co. | Washington | 149 cases | 4 deaths | 271/15 | HIGH |
| | Ozaukee | 122 cases | 11 deaths | | |
| Lakeshore | Fond du Lac | 142 cases | 3 deaths | 296/11 | MEDIUM Considering individual counties and not Chapter total |
| | Sheboygan | 69 cases | 3 deaths | | |
| | Manitowoc | 22 cases | 1 death | | |
| | Kewaunee | 30 cases | 1 death | | |
| | Door | 33 cases | 3 death | | |

With that initial data, we can then perform a more comprehensive Risk Assessment. Those of you familiar with NPS Operational Leadership, and/or *Trail Safe!*, will recognize the “SPE Model” of risk assessment.

| SEVERITY X PROBABILITY X EXPOSURE (SPE) | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| SEVERITY | PROBABILITY | EXPOSURE |
| 1. None | 1. Impossible or remote in any conditions | 1. None or below average |
| 2. Minimal | 2. Unlikely under normal conditions | 2. Average |
| 3. Significant | 3. About 50 / 50 | 3. Above average |
| 4. Major | 4. Greater than 50% | 4. Great |
| 5. Catastrophic | 5. Very likely to happen | |
| VALUES | RISK LEVEL | ACTION |
| 80-100 | Very High | Discontinue, Stop |
| 60-79 | High | Immediate Correction |
| 40-59 | Substantial | Correction Required |
| 20-39 | Possible | Attention Needed |
| 1-19 | Slight | Possibly Acceptable |

SPE for LOW Chapter Areas

Severity (most likely outcome if 100 random people participate in this activity) = **2/Minimal**

Probability (how likely is it that exposure to or contracting COVID-19 would happen to those 100 people) = **2/Unlikely**

Exposure (what is the exposure risk for a single, particular person?). Consider length of time on the Trail, interaction of other hikers/recreationists, exposure getting to & from the Trail (need for gas station, etc.), how prevalent is COVID-19 in that County/Chapter area, is the volunteer in a high risk population due to underlying health conditions such as diabetes, chronic lung diseases, etc. as identified by the CDC? Worst case scenario = **4/Great**

2 X 2 X 4 = 16 (Slight Risk Level—Possibly Acceptable)

SPE for MEDIUM Chapter Areas

Severity (most likely outcome if 100 random people participate in this activity) = **2.5/Minimal to Significant**

Probability (how likely is it that exposure to or contracting COVID-19 would happen to those 100 people) = **2.5/Unlikely to 50-50 Chance**

Exposure (what is the exposure risk for a single, particular person?). Consider length of time on the Trail, interaction of other hikers/recreationists, exposure getting to & from the Trail (need for gas station, etc.), how prevalent is COVID-19 in that County/Chapter area, is the volunteer in a high risk population due to underlying health conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic lung diseases, etc. as identified by the CDC? Worst case scenario = **4/Great**

2.5 X 2.5 X 4 = 25 (Possible Risk Level—Attention Needed)

SPE for HIGH Chapter Areas

Severity (most likely outcome if 100 random people participate in this activity) = **3.5/Significant to Major**

Probability (how likely is it that exposure to or contracting COVID-19 would happen to those 100 people) = **3/About 50-50 Chance**

Exposure (what is the exposure risk for a single, particular person?). Consider length of time on the Trail, interaction of other hikers/recreationists, exposure getting to & from the Trail (need for gas station, handling shared tools, etc.), how prevalent is COVID-19 in that County/Chapter area, is the volunteer in

a high risk population due to underlying health conditions such as diabetes, chronic lung diseases, etc. as identified by the CDC? Worst case scenario = **4/Great**

3.5 X 3 X 4 = 42 (Substantial Risk Level—Correction Required)

One of the components of the SPE calculation is “Exposure,” meaning an individual’s personal exposure to the risk—in this case COVID-19. One variable is whether or not a particular person is part of what the Center for Disease Control (CDC) considers a higher risk population with underlying health concerns. As defined by the CDC, those groups at higher risk for severe illness if they contract COVID-19 are outlined at the following CDC web address: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/groups-at-higher-risk.html>

As we phase back into volunteer Trail operations, the National Park Service- Ice Age National Scenic Trail will be requiring volunteers to complete individual Volunteer Service Agreements (form OF-301a). Box #33 on the agreement form requires volunteers to self-assess their ability to perform work tasks and assess their “fitness for duty.”

Because of that, we are providing you with the risk assessment information in this document so that you can make the best self-assessment for yourself. When discussing those populations who may be at higher risk, both CDC and state guidance caution that those individuals “*should*” continue to observe “Safer at Home” restrictions. All we can do is provide you with recommended guidelines and risk assessment information as we know it, then rely on you to then decide for yourself what course of action is most appropriate for your situation.

If you do request to re-engage with your normal volunteer activities, we require that you fill out and submit a completed OF-301a Volunteer Services Agreement form and return it to us. Once the form is received and signed off by the NPS, you will then be able to participate in the NPS Volunteers-In-Parks Program for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

All volunteer activities will be subject to following risk mitigation guidance that will be provided to you within the COVID-19 Job Hazard Analysis (JHA).