

Sno-King Water Watchers program

Guidelines for Water Monitoring under Washington State COVID-19 Reopening Phases

May 25, 2020

As of today, King and Snohomish Counties are still under Phase 1 restrictions (some outdoor recreation, no gatherings, essential travel and non-essential for permitted activities). It is possible that King and Snohomish Counties may move to Phase 2 restrictions (outdoor recreation of 5 or fewer, gather with no more than 5 people outside your family per week, still limited non-essential travel, more permitted activities) in early June depending on disease metrics. Phase 3 may be later in June but there is no exact schedule. Under Phase 3, non-essential travel may resume & larger groups are permitted (up to 50). We will continue to follow announcements from the Governor's office & county and local officials, and update our guidelines for water monitoring activities as things change.

In the meantime, we have the following guidelines:

1. Water monitoring is non-essential, so you are not obligated to try to keep monitoring while restrictions are in place. Technically, travel to monitor is non-essential and not recommended under Phase 1 or 2.
2. You may monitor if you have a kit, you monitor either by yourself or with a member of your household, and it involves minimal travel (for example, site is in your yard or close to where you live).
3. Gloves are recommended, along with use of hand sanitizer in the field following contact with water.
4. Do not touch your eyes or face while water monitoring.
5. If you monitor in a public place or park, maintain social distance of at least 6 feet from others.
6. Wash your hands thoroughly when you return from water monitoring.
7. Wash and air dry glassware following water monitoring and leave the kit open to dry.

Once restrictions have lifted (Phase 3 and beyond), water monitoring with others will be possible. The guidelines above still apply, with some additional guidelines:

1. Meeting with others is not without risk. Water monitoring is optional & non-essential. It is up to your risk tolerance if you want to work with others outside your household.
2. Do not meet with others or exchange kits if you have had a fever, cough, or other illness in the last 14 days.
3. Minimize group size and do not carpool.
4. Wear a face mask and gloves.
5. Maintain social distance from monitoring partners and others while monitoring and when exchanging kits.
6. Wipe down contact surfaces on kits, tubs, and equipment before exchanging with others.