

NPS - 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).