



The Last Green Valley Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Covid-19 Volunteer Safety Guidelines for the 2020 Monitoring Season

May 19, 2020

Thank you for your interest in participating in The Last Green Valley Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. Your health and safety is more important to us than any water quality monitoring data you may collect in the field. For that reason, we have developed Safety Guidelines for participation in our program in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic. The situation is constantly evolving and these Safety Guidelines may need to be amended at any time. If you do not feel comfortable participating under these restrictions for any reason, we will respect your decision to not participate this season. You may also withdraw from monitoring as the season progresses for any reason.

1. If you have a fever, or in any way do not feel well, or any member of your household is potentially ill with the Covid-19 virus, please excuse yourself from participating in the monitoring event.
2. Volunteers will wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times in the presence of other volunteers. Volunteers will need to provide their own mask.
3. Volunteers will maintain a 6 foot or more separating distance at all times, even in the field.
4. Volunteers that are not from the same household will not ride in the same vehicle between monitoring locations.
5. In order to minimize cross contamination from individual WQM volunteers, each piece of equipment will be assigned to one volunteer for the duration of the monitoring event. Before that equipment is handed to the volunteer, it will be cleaned with a sanitizing wipe by the team leader while wearing a mask and gloves.
6. Data sheets should be completed by one person and that person will use hand sanitizer after handling data sheets. The Team Leader will wear gloves while handling and inspecting data sheets for completeness if they were completed by another volunteer.
7. Sampling from a boat in groups will not be supported due to the limited separating space between occupants unless those people live in the same household.
8. If the multiprobe Bluetooth signal cannot communicate with the tablet computer at a distance ≥ 6 feet, volunteers from different households should stand back to back if ≤ 6 feet.
9. Volunteers are still required to work in teams of two people or more people for safety reasons, but you are encouraged to limit your team size to minimize close contact.
10. Volunteers should wear reflective vests while collecting samples.
11. Every member of your team should have a cell phone with them if they own one in case of an emergency and carry a first aid kit while in the field.
12. If for any reason, you do not feel safe during the course of a monitoring event, please report your concerns to your team leader. If the issues are not rectified, please feel you may discontinue your volunteer service.
13. Report any safety concerns to The Last Green Valley Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator, Jean Pillo Jean.Pillo@Comcast.net.

Due to restrictions on in person meeting crowd size, all training will be held on line, with supplemental training in the field as needed. Completion of annual training is still required for participation in the program.

We thank you for your devotion to The Last Green Valley Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. Let's all work together to stay safe and healthy so we all come out on the other side of this pandemic together.

Jean Pillo, TLGV WQM Coordinator

Lois Bruinooge, TLGV Executive Director

Revised June 4, 2020