

White River Partnership

2020 Covid-19 Water Quality Monitoring Protocols

While we are excited to be able to proceed with our water quality program this year, the safety of our volunteers and staff are of the utmost concern for this season. We ask that all volunteers follow these protocols to ensure a safe sampling season.

General Guidance:

1. The White River Partnership and our water quality monitoring program are subject to all state of Vermont orders and mandates. If there are any orders or mandates that affect our water quality program, we will keep you all updated.
2. If you feel sick, or feel that sampling at your location could put you at risk of exposure to Covid-19, please DO NOT collect your sample. While our water quality program is important in monitoring the health of the White River, your safety and health is paramount.

Safety while collecting your sample:

1. Please practice social distancing while collecting water quality samples: make sure to maintain at least 6 feet from any other river users who may be in the area of your sampling location.
2. Please ensure that you have a mask with you during your sampling. Each water quality kit includes a cloth mask. While using the mask may not always be required, we ask that you have it with you in case you encounter a situation where it is needed.

Safety while dropping-off your sample:

1. To limit human contact on water quality sampling days, we are asking volunteers to drop their bottles into coolers this year instead of at the usual stores that many of you have used in the past. We will let all volunteers know where the cooler for their drop-off is located.
2. If you are using a cooler in a location used by multiple volunteers, please ensure that only one volunteer drops-off their sample in the cooler at a time. If you arrive at your drop-off cooler and another volunteer is dropping-off their sample, please remain in your car, or 6 feet away, before you drop-off your sample.
3. Please sanitize your hands before and after touching the cooler. Also please bring the mask with you to the cooler in case you need to use it. Each water quality kit has hand sanitizer and a mask provided.