

The purpose of this document is for internal guidance and assistance with decision-making regarding in-person programs run by AccesSurf staff and volunteers. As our programs mostly take place in the water, the document has been titled the “Back in the Water” Protocol.

As the global pandemic continues, AccesSurf is updating its COVID-19 procedures and making its decision-making process utilize common language. The health and safety of our community members remains our top priority. These guidelines were developed using the latest medical information available from the State Department of Health, the CDC, and other related government entities.

GUIDANCE ON USING THIS DOCUMENT

New information on COVID-19 and its variants is changing rapidly. It is incumbent upon the AccesSurf staff, the Leadership Committee, the Board of Directors, and any designated task force to continually monitor the situation and adjust decision-making according to the latest information while adhering as much as is feasible to the guidance in this document. These are intended to be minimum guidelines for AccesSurf in-person events as we aim to get back into the water. **This document is intended to supplement – NOT REPLACE – any state, county, or national health and safety laws, rules and regulations.**

Whenever “our community” is mentioned in this document, we are referring to our staff, volunteers, and participants.

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, AccesSurf makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about symptoms and/or diagnoses related to COVID-19.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THIS DOCUMENT AND FOR THE ACCESSURF COMMUNITY

- 1. The health and safety of our community at AccesSurf is our highest priority.**
- 2. Relevant State Department of Health and CDC guidelines should serve as minimum standards. In addition, we will follow the decisions of local and county authorities if they are more conservative/restrictive than those at higher levels. AccesSurf will always err on the side of caution and safety.**
- 3. Guidance in this document is based on the latest information available at the time this document was updated. Guidance will continue to evolve as the pandemic continues, please seek out the latest information when consulting this document.**
- 4. Our guidance within this document takes a four-leveled approach that is based upon local transmission rates as well as positivity rates, community spread, contact tracing, health system capacity, and the spread of COVID-19 within our community.**

FOUR LEVELS OF “GETTING BACK IN THE WATER”

AccesSurf will be following this four (4) leveled approach to getting back in the water to determine whether our in-person activities are happening and in what capacity our events and programming will be taking place. **AccesSurf will move between each level based upon an assessment looking at each “condition” in the top row as its own indicator of increasing or decreasing the assessed level of risk.**

	Green (Low Risk)	Yellow (Moderate Risk)	Orange (Heightened Risk)	Red (High Risk)
Island and Community Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hospitalizations from COVID-19 are at sustainable levels > No reported cases within our community > Our community is adhering to safety protocols consistently at all in-person events > Hospitals can service all patients, including COVID-19 patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hospitalizations from COVID-19 are trending upward or lowering from previous highs > Possible cases within our community > Our community is not as consistently following all safety protocols at an in-person event > Hospitals and health officials considering stopping elective procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hospitalizations from COVID-19 are surging upward or are at extremely high and unsustainable levels > Multiple confirmed cases within our community > Our community has not been following safety protocols at multiple in-person events > Elective procedures stopped at multiple hospitals; COVID-19 patients make up significant amount of patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hospitals are rationing ICU beds and/or ventilators > Confirmed cases have been traced to an ASH event > Our community has not followed safety protocols for consecutive events > State Health Department, Mayor, Governor, or other authority has declared an emergency regarding hospital capacity
AccesSurf and Community Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > In-person events are taking place on a regular basis > Registration is required for all events for all involved > General guidelines from the State Health Department and the CDC are being followed > Grill can be used for food, potluck style food is also okay > High-risk individuals are welcome to come to events but should practice social distancing and minimizing exposure whenever possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > In-person events are taking place on a case-by-case basis > Registration is required for all events for all involved > General guidelines from the State Health Department and the CDC are being strictly adhered to at events > Food in open containers must be served on skewers > High-risk individuals should reconsider attending in-person events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Only restricted in-person events are taking place > Registration is required for all events for all involved > General guidelines from the State Health Department and the CDC are being strictly adhered to at events > Social distancing is implemented at events whenever possible > Only single packaged snacks at events > High-risk individuals should not attend in-person events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > No in-person events are taking place > The community is awaiting updates from the State Health Department, the CDC, the Mayor’s Office, and other government entities > AccesSurf will keep the community updated on policies and procedures > High-risk individuals should stay at home whenever possible > Virtual programming will be utilized in order to continue to support our community

The following pages contain precautions and protocols for outdoor activities taken from the State Health Department and the CDC. AccesSurf should utilize this information when planning, setting up, and running in-person events.

STEPS EVERYONE CAN TAKE TO MAKE GETTING BACK IN THE WATER SAFER

These are steps we can ask all event attendees to take at our in-person events, **whenever possible**. No one measure is enough to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

1) Stay at least 6 feet away from people who do not live with you **(if you are on land)**

- You are more likely to get or spread COVID-19 when you are in **close contact** with people who don't live with you.
- Remember that people without symptoms or with a recent negative test result can still spread COVID-19 to others.

2) Wash your hands **(before and after you get out of the water)**

- **Wash hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing and before eating. AccesSurf will set up a hand washing station whenever feasible at in-person events that do not have accessible sinks.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. AccesSurf will provide hand sanitizer at all in-person events.
- Avoid touching your mask, eyes, nose, and mouth.

3) Please get vaccinated **(if you are able to)**

- Authorized COVID-19 vaccines **can help protect you** from COVID-19. *Vaccines are mandatory for water and transfer support.*
- Some members of our community cannot be vaccinated for health reasons. If you are eligible for vaccination against COVID-19, please consider doing so to better protect our community members who cannot.
- Even after you are fully vaccinated, AccesSurf asks you to continue to use an abundance of caution at our in-person events in order to protect those members of our community who are ineligible for vaccination.

4) Wear a mask if you want the additional protection **(it is optional)**

- **Evidence** shows that "one way masking" – or wearing a mask even if no one else is wearing one – can reduce your chance of infection.
- Evidence also shows that you are much less likely to be exposed to COVID-19 **outdoors**.

WHAT TO DO IF A PERSON BECOMES SICK OR TESTS POSITIVE AFTER OR DURING AN IN-PERSON EVENT

If it is the day of the event and someone becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms, they should be removed from the rest of the group and tested immediately. The event should NOT continue, and all attendees should socially distance from people outside of their family group. All attendees should then follow protocol as if they were exposed to COVID-19 (<https://hawaii covid19.com/testing-isolation-quarantine>) and be instructed to await further information from AccesSurf Staff.

If a person who has attended an AccesSurf event tests positive for COVID-19, they should alert AccesSurf staff immediately. In addition, the following CDC information should be the guidelines for the individual:

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

Regarding quarantine for exposures, ASH Staff will follow these steps, depending on a person's vaccination status:

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

If you:

Have been boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

If you:

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Are unvaccinated

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home

- We will assume that all registered volunteers and participants were “exposed” for the purpose of giving this information to the State Department of Health unless directed otherwise
- Keep identity of person positive for COVID-19 confidential
- Following State Department of Health/CDC determination of close contacts at the event, inform all appropriate attendees of their potential exposure to COVID-19
 - Depending on vaccination status, individuals will either follow mask protocols or quarantine.
 - Immediate testing does not necessarily provide accurate information regarding that individual’s ability to spread the virus. Individuals and families should contact their health care provider regarding follow-up testing after their exposure at the in-person event. 5 Days after exposure is recommended by the CDC.
 - All attendees may be contacted directly by the State Department of Health and should be informed of this possibility.
- Based on our use case of equipment, it is highly unlikely that fomite or contact transmission of COVID-19 will happen. However, high touch areas of equipment (such as mobi/beach chairs) should be washed after each use. All worn equipment will be collected and washed after each event.
 - Disinfection information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

In regards to what steps to take when it comes to quarantine, isolation, and when to return to work, please follow this tool from the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html#>