

## **Covid-19 Safety Protocols** for the IWRC Classroom

The IWRC prioritizes the safety of our instructors, students, and hosts first and foremost during our courses. As such, we will be implementing the following requirements and guidelines until they are no longer deemed necessary. These requirements may be amended or modified depending on changes in governmental recommendations and mandates. Our intention is not to exclude participants but to prevent disease transmission and safeguard health. If you are not able to or otherwise exempted from vaccinating or testing we invite you to consider [Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation online](#).

BE ADVISED: The IWRC reserves the right to cancel or move a course online if deemed necessary for health and safety reasons.

### **Requirements**

1. All students and host representatives will be able to provide proof of full vaccination or of a negative test result.
2. All Instructors will provide proof of full vaccination status to teach in-person courses.
3. For those opting for COVID-19 testing, you may choose your preferred method so long as it is a viral and not an antibody test and taken within 1-3 days of the course. Please be aware of the time it takes to get the results of your test when choosing your preferred method. For more information on testing [click here](#). To find a low or no cost testing site near you please [click here](#) for the US. If you are outside of the US, check your government website for resources or contact us for assistance.
  - a. Proof of vaccination or negative test results should be sent to the IWRC class coordinator ([online@theiwrc.org](mailto:online@theiwrc.org)) in advance of the class (preferred) or may be presented to the IWRC instructor at the beginning of the class.
    - i. Information provided regarding vaccination or test status will not be shared with anyone outside of the IWRC staff, course instructor and host.
    - ii. Any students unable to provide proof of vaccination or negative test results before or on the day of the course will be considered a late cancellation. Read our [full cancellation policy here](#).
  - b. Before entering the class venue, any students (vaccinated or unvaccinated) with a known or suspected exposure to the COVID-19 virus within 14 days of the course must disclose this to the IWRC class coordinator and present the results of all relevant tests.
4. All students, instructors, and host representatives must wear appropriate\* masks over their nose and mouth while in the class facility.

- a. Approved masks do not include anti-masks — face coverings that are permeable and do not inhibit the expulsion of respiratory droplets. Examples: crochet, lace, or mesh masks.
5. All students, instructors, and host representatives must social distance in the class facility with the exception of pre-established social groups e.g. members of the same household or host staff who work closely together.
6. Any students [exhibiting signs of COVID-19](#) (fatigue, dry cough, fever greater than 100°F / 37.77°C , etc.) will be asked to stay home. Students displaying obvious symptoms associated with COVID-19 may be asked to leave the facility at the instructor and or hosts discretion.
  - a. Any student who cannot attend the course due to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 will be offered the choice of a full refund or course credit.

### **Guidelines** - Adapted from the CDC website

1. Wash hands often and particularly after coughing, sneezing, eating, touching cadavers, touching high touch surfaces, moving between rooms, or going to the bathroom.
  - a. Sanitizer should be used if hand washing is not possible or to supplement handwashing.
2. High touch surfaces should be cleaned often. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
3. Masks are generally not deemed necessary outdoors but are recommended in areas where COVID cases are high or when in close proximity in large groups, especially with unvaccinated individuals present.
4. People with a condition or who are taking medications that weaken their immune system may not be fully protected even if fully vaccinated and should take all the precautions of an unvaccinated person.

### **Resources**

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [World Organization for Animal Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#) - United States
- [Coronavirus Disease \(Covid-19\)](#) - Canada
- Further resources and information can be found on the [IWRC Covid-19 page](#)