

COVID-19 Policy and Guidelines for VAS events and activities

At Ventura Audubon Society ("VAS"), the health, safety and welfare of each member of our team, event/activity attendees, their families, and the community is our highest priority.

We are closely monitoring the outbreak and have developed the following policies according to State, Local and CDC guidelines. As the pandemic situation evolves, we will continue to monitor these guidelines and adapt our policies accordingly. If necessary, we will suspend group activities entirely.

Masks:

Masks are required at all VAS events and activities. An appropriate mask must cover, and be secure around, the nose and mouth. Straps must not be stretched or damaged, the fabric must not have holes or tears.

Masks must be worn at all times during VAS events and activities, including:

- Walking to and from your car at event or activity sites.
- While conducting outreach, during field trips or while conducting any face to face interactions.
- If it is not feasible to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence, even while outdoors in public spaces.
- Masks may not be removed under any circumstances, even if distancing is 6 ft or greater, if individuals are in shared or confined spaces, while conducting work or participating in events/activities for VAS.

Social Distancing:

Groups will be limited to 4 attendees to 1 field trip leader.

Maintain a minimum of six feet distance at all times. If six feet cannot be maintained, seek out a different birding view rather than crowding one spot. You may well discover an even better view!

Attendees shall bring their own equipment, wherever possible. Only members of the same household may share equipment.

Do not shake hands, hug, arm bump, fist bump or otherwise use any form of physical contact greeting.

Minimize touching of high-touch surfaces, including boardwalk railings, gates, and brochure boxes. Use hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes after any surface contact, including before and after you've finished your participation in the VAS event/activity.

Hydrate and eat before an event/activity. Only eat while participating in an activity if absolutely necessary. If you must eat, use hand sanitizer before touching food. No sharing food between individuals not of the same household.

Use caution when hydrating during events/activities. Bring your own water to events. Share water bottles only with individuals of your household. Do not use public fixtures unless absolutely necessary.

Monitoring for Symptoms: STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK

All participants of VAS sponsored events shall self-monitor for symptoms to protect themselves and the health and safety of others, including monitoring your temperature before events. . To limit the spread of COVID- 19, you will be required to answer a COVID -19 Symptom Questionnaire that must be signed and returned before the event/activity.

Please stay home if any of the following pertain to you:

1. You have cold symptoms, such as coughing, sneezing, fever, loss of taste/smell, or you feel poorly in general
2. You have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. You may come on site after you have been cleared by your doctor and have had consecutive negative COVID tests
3. You have traveled within the last 2 weeks in areas with a high number of COVID-19 cases (based on [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) announcements),
4. You've been in close contact with someone infected by COVID-19 anytime during the past 2 weeks

According to the CDC

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), symptoms can include:

- **Fever or chills**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Fatigue**
- **Muscle or body aches**
- **Headache**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Sore throat**
- **Congestion or runny nose**
- **Nausea or vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**