

OOPS Infectious Disease Policy

OOPS values safety

OOPS plans trips and classes to minimize environmental dangers such as weather, wind, waves, and tides. OOPS desires and seeks safety, but OOPS cannot guarantee anyone's safety. The safety policies at OOPS have been defined to keep you safe when kayaking, but they are just as applicable to all aspects of daily life.

Infectious diseases such as hepatitis, malaria, tuberculosis, measles, polio, SARS, and most recently, COVID have always threatened public safety. These dangers are controlled by personal decisions to protect ourselves and the health of the public.

When COVID became an issue, we minimized this hazard by shutting down trips. Later, we reopened trips but instituted a mask mandate. Still later, we included COVID vaccine status as part of trip planning. Lately OOPS dropped our mask mandate in accordance with CDC guidelines. Our response has been fluid and energetically debated by the OOPS board. We sincerely seek to balance our value of safety with the recreational desires of our members.

To that end, OOPS endorses the following policy regarding infectious diseases.

- Any member can request a trip or class for vaccinated-only members. Or they can request a trip for non-vaccinated-only members. Please reference <https://oopskayak.org/Trips> for details on how to request a trip. NOTE: T.O.s will be limited to posting trips that meet club guidelines.
- Any OOPS authorized Trip Organizer or instructor can propose a trip or class with any reasonable restrictions they wish, short of violating an individual's civil rights (please refer to <https://civilrights.justice.gov> for details). These proposals might be restricted to vaccinated-only or not. This stipulation should be noted in the trip narrative, along with any other safety issues the TO feels is necessary.
- If a trip or class is posted as Vaccinated-only, out of respect for those who may be immunocompromised or just want to feel safer on the paddle, members who are not vaccinated are asked not to join said paddle.
- The OOPS Programs Director may stipulate safety requirements for in-person monthly meetings. This potentially includes the directive to be vaccinated. If the Programs Director posts a meeting as Vaccinated-only, then only members who are vaccinated should attend said meeting.
- The OOPS Events Director may stipulate safety requirements for OOPS events. If an Event is posted as partially or fully vaccination-only, members must be vaccinated in order to attend vaccination-only portions of said Event.
- OOPS members should assume that any trip, class, event, or meeting that does not have an explicit condition is not restricted in that way. In other words, if a Trip Organizer does not make any mention of a vaccine requirement, then the participating member should assume there will be a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated participants.

- OOPS trusts the word of its members without the need for further verification, including the display of proof of health-related status such as vaccination cards or other doctor's orders. If a member professes to meet a trip, class, event, or meeting requirement, then OOPS defaults to trusting the word of that member, unless an OOPS board member believes otherwise.

Date: May 1, 2022