

Preamble

COVID is responsible for the deaths of close to 600,000 Americans and long-term health consequences for millions more. Although vaccination and improved medical care have eased the consequences of the pandemic, it is not behind us and the OSP Committee is committed to steps that benefit all attendees. OSP will be enforcing safe practices so that we can all enjoy our dark skies astronomy and not be part of the continuing COVID problem. **Masks will be optional in the general camping areas, but masks will be required in any area managed by the OSP Committee (including all tent activities, shower area, vendor area, and the swap meet).**

OSP-2021 COVID Plan

COVID is responsible for the deaths of close to 600,000 Americans and long-term health consequences for millions more. Although vaccination and improved medical care have eased the consequences of the pandemic, it is not behind us.

With the increased number of vaccinations, we can gather more people in a physical space more safely now. OSP will continue enforcing safe practices so that we can enjoy our dark skies astronomy and not be part of the continuing problem.

OSP recommends that everyone attending OSP 2021 be fully vaccinated, but even with proof of vaccination we are requiring that attendees read and agree to follow our OSP 2021 COVID Plan.

Background:

The COVID Policy for OSP 2021 (August 3rd – 8th) is based on the following breakdown of the typical “activities” associated with the star party:

1. The Oregon Star Party is essentially a camping event that people bring telescopes to. The venue is set up as an open-field campground and +95% of activity is nighttime astronomical observing at individuals’ camp sites.
2. The remaining activity centers around services and amenities provided for the camper’s comfort, entertainment / education and for the star party administration, which are sporadically used by OSP campers. These include:
 - a. Administration (Registration and Information tents)
 - b. Personal hygiene: (Porta-Potties + showers)
 - c. Entertainment / Education (Youth tent, Adult Activities Tent (including speakers), and the outdoor Telescope Yard

Camping + Telescope Yard: The camping component of OSP is covered under the “Guidance Details Metrics” section in the “Statewide Guidance, Regardless of Risk Level” published by the Oregon Governor’s Office Guidelines

([Coronavirus.oregon.gov](https://coronavirus.oregon.gov) : [Building a Safe & Strong Oregon : Guidance : State of Oregon](#)), and the Oregon Health Advisory, “[Guidance FAQs — Outdoor Recreation and Fitness Establishments](#)” ([OHA 2390M Guidance FAQs Outdoor Recreation and Fitness Establishments \(state.or.us\)](#)) where the answer to Question 1 states that “Public and private campgrounds are permitted to operate. Group activities are permitted among members of the same household or party. Otherwise, people must maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance between each other.”

Porta-Potties: The best fit for Porta-Pottie operations associated with OSP camping is best summarized under the Health Advisory’s answer to Question 5, which states that, “Operators of outdoor public areas are not required to clean and disinfect outdoor areas such as outdoor playgrounds. Operators should encourage individuals to bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use and to wipe down surfaces before use.”

Portable shower truck: The best fit for the portable shower truck operation associated with OSP camping is best summarized under the Health Advisory’s answer to Question 18, which states that, “There are limited times when you do not have to wear a mask, face shield or face covering at a location covered by the statewide guidance, including when engaged in an activity that makes wearing a mask, face shield or face covering not feasible, such as when taking a shower.”

Tent operations (Activities, Information Registration, and Youth): The best fit for the operation of activities conducted within temporary tents associated with OSP camping is best summarized under the Health Advisory’s answer to Question 13, which defines a temporary a temporary wall and roof structure (such as awnings) may be considered to be outdoor if it “has at least fifty percent of the square footage of its sides open for airflow such that open sides are not adjacent to each other. This includes spaces which may have a temporary or fixed cover (e.g. awning or roof).”

OSP-2021 COVID Rules:

1. OSP recommends that everyone attending OSP 2021 be fully vaccinated.
2. Regardless of your vaccination status, masks will be required at all times when you are in OSP-functional areas within the perimeter defined by the OSP USFS use permit (in OSP tents, in vendor areas, showers area, group educational activities, etc.). OSP recommends using a face mask at all times when social distancing cannot be maintained.
3. Oregon State COVID Guidelines does not require formal sanitation between uses in public restrooms, but we encourage attendees to wipe surfaces before using the porta-potties. Commercial wipes (like Chlorox wipes) cannot be disposed of in the porta-potties and should be disposed of in garbage cans.
4. Masks must be worn in the shower changing and dressing areas, but may be removed when actually showering (in the stall). Masks will be required to be worn the public (drying/changing) areas in the shower truck and the outdoor area. Shower capacity will be controlled so that no more than 50% of the stalls are in use at any one time.
5. Youth education activities will be held outdoors near the youth tent when at all possible. When activities must be confined to the 40’x40’ Youth Tent (because of the nature of the activity or because of heat), the tent arranged so 50% of the wall area is open for ventilation. Everyone will wear a mask at all times during youth education activities (including outdoor activities).
6. The 40’x60’ Activities Tent will be where education activities will be centered. The tent will be set up so that 50% of the wall area will be open for increased ventilation and people will be seated in family pods with 6

feet between pods. Overflow will be seated outside the Activities tent in the Telescope Yard. Everyone will wear a mask at all times during Activities Tent functions.

7. The Telescope Yard is an outdoor activity and has always been set up so there at least 8 feet between scopes. Everyone will wear a mask at all times in the telescope yard.
8. The 20'x20' Info Tent will be set up so that 50% of the wall area will be open for increased ventilation. The tent will have limited and controlled access. People waiting to enter the Info Tent will wait outside the tent as a 6-ft social distancing. Everyone will wear a mask at all times in the Info Tent and in the waiting line.
9. The 20'x20' Registration Tent will be set up so that 50% of the wall area will be open for increased ventilation. The tent will have limited and controlled access. Queuing sequence will be managed to register to reduce the need to wait in line, and people waiting their turn in the Registration Tent will wait outside the tent as a 6-ft social distancing.