Canyon Explorations/Expeditions trips include hygiene and sanitation practices designed to limit risk to Guests and employees. We are taking additional steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Our health and safety measures are designed to address a broad spectrum of viruses, including COVID-19.

MINIMIZING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

* River trips in Grand Canyon offer open spaces and fresh air
* Canyon Explorations/Expeditions undertakes reasonable measures to mitigate the spread of pathogens and viruses; including established hygiene and sanitization protocols
* Risk of viral transmission exists in any environment in which other people are present - including on a Grand Canyon rafting trip
* Social distancing will be incorporated into trip activities to the extent feasible; ultimately, it is not possible to maintain six feet of spacing between all guests, and between guests and guides/vehicle drivers, at all times

HEALTH & SANITIZATION

Pre-trip screening conducted at home 3-4 days prior to launch will include a temperature check and confirmation of the absence of symptoms that cannot be attributed to another health condition.

Food preparation is handled according to relevant US Public Heath Department and National Park Service guidelines. River crews include certified Food Managers and Food Handlers. Our outdoor kitchen and cooking surfaces are sanitized according to CDC guidelines, before and after use. Per current guidelines, river crews will wear food prep masks and gloves during meal prep and serving. Our operations already include many proven mitigation procedures due to the fact that norovirus (a gastrointestinal virus) is present in municipalities throughout the US and can be brought onto trips by our guests. We will continue to monitor relevant changes in the guidelines, and will adopt or discontinue practices accordingly.

Daily health screening: To provide for a response to change in a Guest or guide’s health, river guides conduct daily Health Screening that includes a verbal symptoms check and temperature check with no-touch thermometer

Personal hygiene: Similar to traveling through an airport, grocery store, or other public space, guests should always use good hygiene practices. Frequent, thorough hand washing and sanitizing will be the norm. Soap and sanitizer will be available on all boats, at all stops and in camp. Guests and guides should expect to avoid touching their faces when interacting with community items and should wash or sanitize hands afterwards. CDC has announced that the risk of infection due to contact with surfaces is low.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Transportation - The shuttle between the river and Flagstaff and/or the South Rim requires wearing masks brought from home while in vehicles. When on our vans or other vehicles, traveling companions are seated together to help maximize distance between groups, to the extent feasible. Ultimately, it is not possible to maintain six feet of spacing between all guests, and between guests and the drivers, at all times.
Social Distancing Practices: Camps/Hikes/Stops - Most camps are large sandy beaches allowing for social distance between households. Trip activities including loading/unloading boats may result in briefly being in close proximity with others; to reduce viral particle load exposure Guests and guides should limit duration of contact(s) that are within 6' and maintain 6' or more distance as much as possible while at camp, on hikes and at stops. Ultimately, it is not possible to maintain six feet of spacing between all guests, and between guests and guides, at all times.

Social Distancing Practices - Rafting: Seating on our 18’ oar rafts will logically group family members/traveling companions together in the bow (2) or stern (2) of a raft, with the guide seated in the middle of the raft providing 2-5 feet between guide and the Guests seated in the bow and/or stern. During rapids guests/guide may be jostled closer to each other. In our 14’ paddle rafts, Guests and guide are seated closer together and are jostled together in the rapids. At different times, including embarking and disembarking, Guests and guides may be in close proximity temporarily. Ultimately, it is not possible to maintain six feet of spacing between all guests, and between guests and guides, at all times.

MEDICAL TREATMENT
In the event of an individual falling ill with what appears to be Covid-19 during any aspect of the trip including the hike into/out of the canyon, our standard practices for illness isolation and care will be instituted to separate the guests including physical distancing as much as possible from the rest of the group and the wearing of a mask. A customer liaison (if possible) and a guide health provider will be assigned. Contact with medical control (the National Park Service) will be initiated to determine potential need for and possibility of evacuation. Evacuation decisions are made at the discretion of Grand Canyon National Park Service. Wilderness EMS protocols will be followed by your river crew/hike guide. Updates will be provided to medical control and/or the evacuating/governing agency. Increasing the pace of the trip will be considered if warranted. Appropriate steps will be taken to monitor the rest of the group for exposure and to provide information to health authorities for contact tracing post trip.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BRING ON YOUR TRIP
Guests will need to bring a face covering for in the vehicles and attending the pre-trip orientation, and a small bottle of hand sanitizer.