Trail operators as well as all trail contractors should update their internal health and safety procedures. See the **Professional Trailbuilders Association PTBA** for more information.

Trail maintenance is fundamental to providing a safe and quality experience for trail users; it is also essential to managing risk and liability to trail operators.
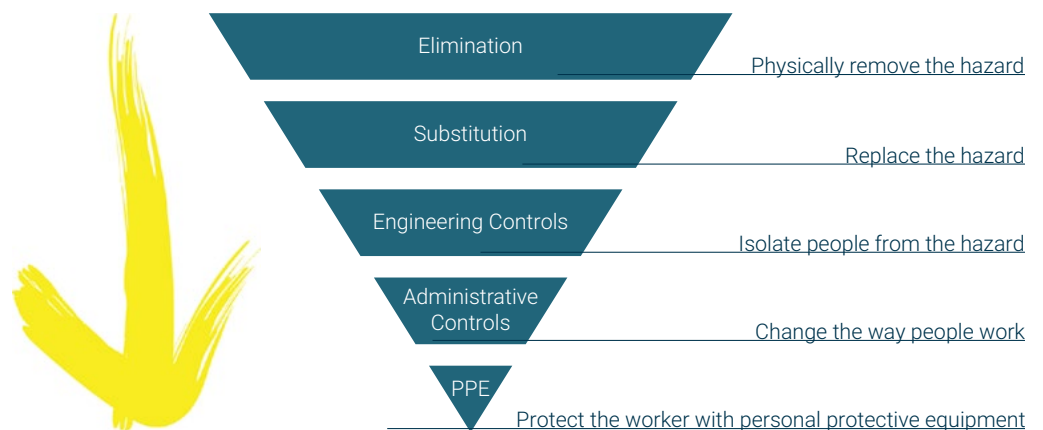
The following guidelines are specific to addressing COVID-19 and are not inclusive of other health and safety requirements that trail operators must adhere to. These guidelines are not an endorsement or direction to continue or resume trail development and maintenance operations. Trail operators and managers must adhere to the public health orders and direction of provincial, territorial and local governments in your region. If your province or region reinstates major health restrictions due to unacceptably high COVID-19 infection rates, it is essential that you be prepared to scale back operations as necessary, in conjunction with those actions.

4.1 RISK ASSESSMENT, SAFE WORK PRACTICES & VOLUNTEER AGREEMENTS

- Trail operators and managers are required to ensure a safe work environment for both staff and volunteers. All trail crew operations must continue to comply with your jurisdiction's relevant health and safety legislation and safe work practices (SWPs) that were required prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Trail operators should undertake a risk assessment of trail operations, and amend existing or develop new health and safety SWPs to include practices that will protect staff and volunteers from being infected by or transmitting COVID-19 during trail operations.

HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS

Most Effective

Elimination	Physically remove the hazard
Substitution	Replace the hazard
Engineering Controls	Isolate people from the hazard
Administrative Controls	Change the way people work
PPE	Protect the worker with personal protective equipment

Least Effective

Figure 3: Hierarchy of Controls (adapted from WorkSafe BC)

- Where the risk assessment determines that it is not possible to eliminate the risks of crew members being infected by or transmitting COVID-19, trail operators should apply the following hierarchy of controls:

1 **First Choice – Engineering Controls**
These controls protect people from the hazard
(e.g. installing barriers, work zones)

2 **Second Choice – Administrative Controls**
These controls change the way the trail crew works, and interacts with each other, with the public and with their equipment
(e.g. physical distancing, disinfecting, tool assignment etc.)

3 **Third Choice – Personal Protective Equipment**
PPE controls the hazard at the crew member level. PPE is required when physical distancing cannot be maintained by administrative and engineering controls.

Where the hazard to crew members cannot be controlled by a single control method, the trail operator should apply a combination of the above controls.

- Trail operators should continue health and safety monitoring to ensure staff and volunteers follow all SWPs that are set out by the trail operator.

- Trail operators should ensure trail leaders understand their responsibility for trail crew compliance with SWPs.

- Trail operators should consider updating volunteer release forms, or creating new ones, to address COVID-19.

4.2 PRIORITIZE TRAIL OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

- Trail operators should review and prioritize all planned trail development and maintenance initiatives, and only pursue the most essential projects and initiatives. To help determine which initiatives are most essential, trail operators should ask themselves:

  » Will not pursuing the initiative result in an unreasonable public safety risk and potential negligence?

  » Will not pursuing the initiative result in unacceptable damage to sensitive environmental or historic resource values?

  » Will not pursuing the initiative result in significant infrastructure damage and significantly higher costs for implementing the project in the future?

  » Can the initiative be implemented in accordance with public health requirements and COVID-19 guidelines?

- Avoid undertaking projects on the busiest trails or during the peak use periods where possible. If not possible, consider a temporary closure of the trail or the implementation of taped off "work zones" to allow the work to be completed with limited interaction between the trail crew and the public.