

CORANGAMITE CMA

Return to volunteering and staying COVID Safe

December 2020



How will we return to volunteering?

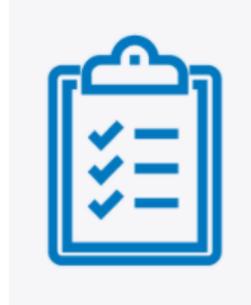
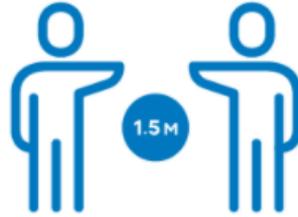
The CCMA have a plan that will guide a return to a safe and strong CCMA volunteer citizen science program incorporating COVIDSafe principles and following the Victorian Government Roadmap to Reopening.



We will follow COVIDSafe principles

- Physical distancing (1.5 metres)
- Wear a mask
- Good hand hygiene
- Keep records of attendees
- Outdoor activities

Don't volunteer if you feel sick or unwell and always cough and sneeze into tissue or elbow

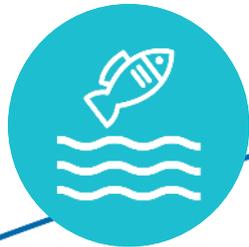


And safety is a priority

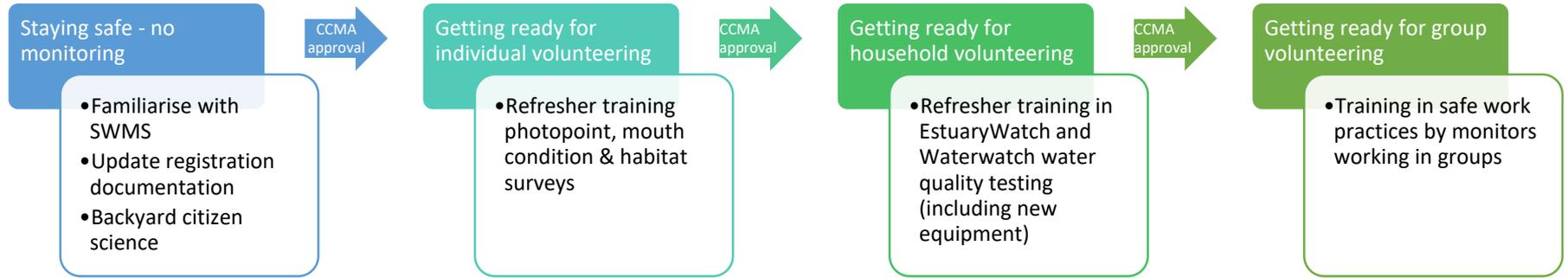
The Corangamite CMA will continue to follow the advice of the Victorian Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and update and adjust the plan based upon most recent advice and the Victorian Government Roadmap to Reopening

Keep up to date

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>



This is how the CCMA will guide the return to volunteering



All participation in monitoring activities is subject to approval by CCMA management

In March 2020 we prioritized safety by suspending the Corangamite Waterwatch and EstuaryWatch programs and encouraged backyard citizen science.

In November, volunteer monitors received material in the post including COVIDSafe plan for volunteers, Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) and registration information to keep informed and updated.



Staying safe - no monitoring

- Familiarise with SWMS
- Update registration documentation
- Backyard citizen science



From December, volunteer monitors will access online information on the CCMA's website, in the Citizen Science section, using the "Volunteer Toolbox"
<https://ccma.vic.gov.au/getinvolved/citizen-science/>

The **Volunteer Toolbox** provides useful refresher training in photopoint monitoring, mouth condition monitoring and habitat surveys that can be done by individuals.

Staying safe - no monitoring

- Familiarise with SWMS
- Update registration documentation
- Backyard citizen science

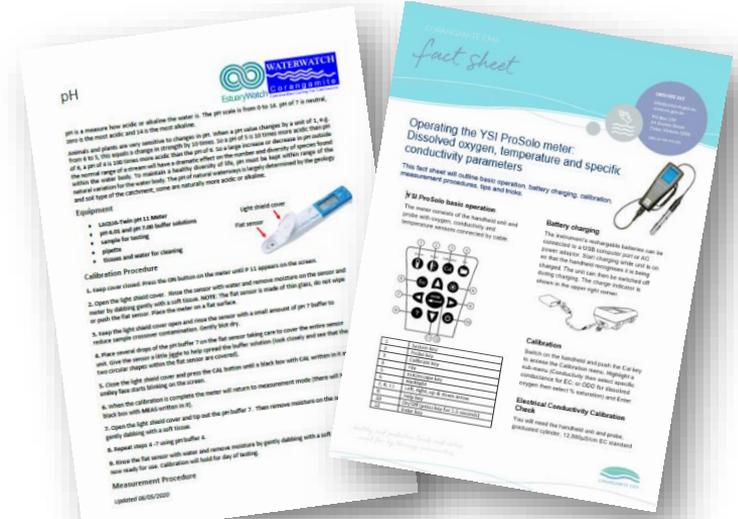
CCMA approval

Getting ready for individual volunteering

- Refresher training photopoint, mouth condition & habitat surveys

The **Volunteer Toolbox** will also provide test instructions and field manuals for water quality testing.

For more information on EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch resources, contact the CCMA Citizen Science project officers.



Staying safe - no monitoring



- Familiarise with SWMS
- Update registration documentation
- Backyard citizen science

Getting ready for individual volunteering

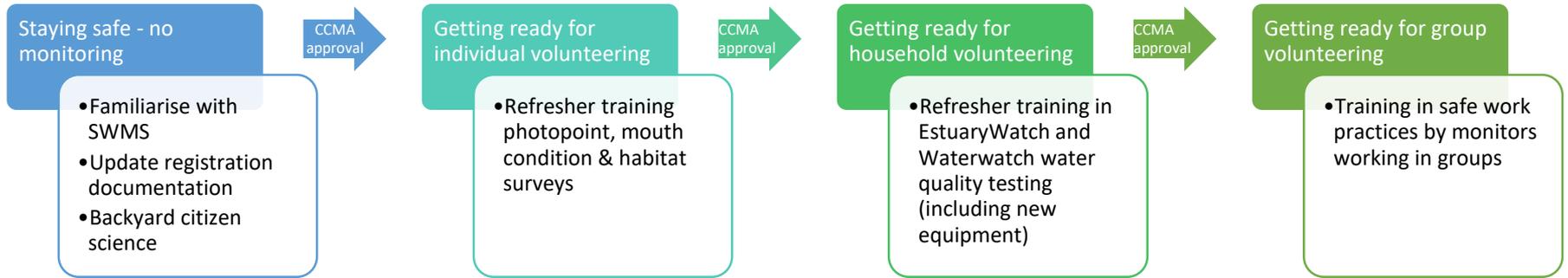
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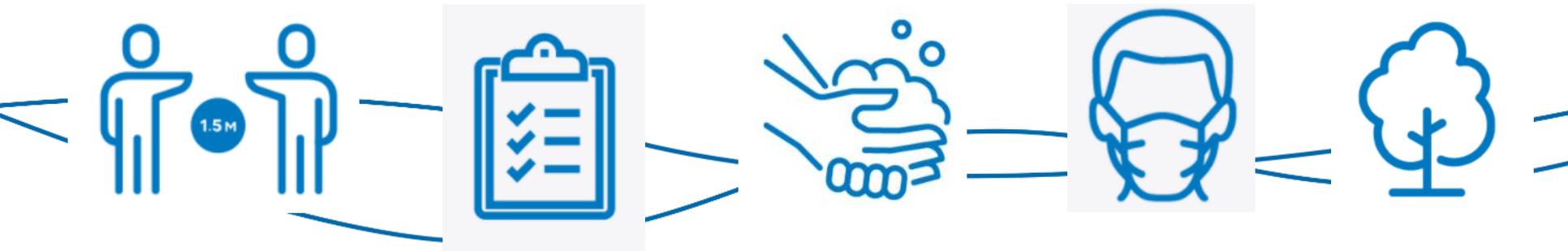
Getting ready for household volunteering

- Refresher training in EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch water quality testing (including new equipment)

A very important part of the plan to Returning to Volunteering is information on conducting citizen science in a COVIDSafe way – especially when working in groups.

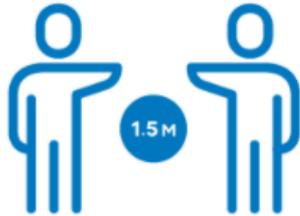


CCMA volunteers must adhere to COVIDSafe principles



Getting ready for group volunteering

- Training in safe work practices by monitors working in groups



Physical distancing 1.5m

When doing citizen science activities maintain 1.5m distance between people:

- Keep group size to a minimum
- Allocate roles to participants eg record keeping, sample collecting, equipment calibrating, water testing
- Wear a mask in situations where distance cannot be maintained
- In narrow thoroughfares, choose to work at quiet times of the day to avoid passers-by.
- Do not car pool with others outside your household unless wearing a mask and ensuring air circulation

For more information on EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch resources, contact the CCMA Citizen Science project officers.

Getting ready for group volunteering

- Training in safe work practices by monitors working in groups



Keep records of attendees

When doing citizen science activities keep records of attendees:

- Write the names of people attending the monitoring event on the data sheet
- Use of surname initial is permitted for registered CCMA volunteers who regularly monitor the site to protect individuals' privacy (as data sheet is published on a public website)
- Scan and upload datasheet to EstuaryWatch or Waterwatch portals without delay.
- If information is not entered onto the data portals, documentation with contributors' names must be emailed to the CCMA promptly.

For more information on EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch resources, contact the CCMA Citizen Science project officers.

Getting ready for group volunteering

- Training in safe work practices by monitors working in groups



Good hand hygiene

When doing citizen science activities practice good hygiene:

- Encourage regular handwashing. Hands must be washed before attending and on completion of a monitoring event
- Hand sanitiser and sanitising wipes are supplied for monitoring kits where equipment is shared
- Frequently and regularly clean and disinfect high use communal items such as pens, clipboards, hand held meters, kit handles, sampling poles.

For more information on EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch resources, contact the CCMA Citizen Science project officers.

Getting ready for group volunteering

- Training in safe work practices by monitors working in groups



Wear a mask

When doing citizen science activities:

- Wear a mask if meeting people inside a building
- Wear a mask if you cannot maintain 1.5m physical distance with others outside
- Wear a mask if you are concerned for any reason about COVID transmission

For more information on EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch resources, contact the CCMA Citizen Science project officers.

Getting ready for group volunteering

- Training in safe work practices by monitors working in groups



Avoid interactions in enclosed spaces

When doing citizen science activities move as much activity outside as possible

- If meeting inside, wear a mask and ensure good air flow
- Outdoor activities are encouraged
- Don't go out monitoring if you are feeling sick. Get tested and stay at home.

For more information on EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch resources, contact the CCMA Citizen Science project officers.

Returning to a strong and safe volunteer program

The CCMA looks forward to working closely with registered citizen scientists into the future.

These items were posted out, but if you did not receive them please advise the Regional Citizen Science project officers.

- Factsheet - How we will return to volunteering?
- COVID Safe Plan for volunteers
- Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS)
- Corangamite CMA Volunteer Handbook

Contact details:

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Thanks for returning to volunteering...

Keep informed about the CCMA citizen science program through our website, the Volunteer Toolbox, e-newsletters and social media.

Web: www.ccma.vic.gov.au

We look forward to involving you in a refreshed citizen science program in 2021

- Deirdre and Kristen

