

## **Hike Leader Responsibilities in the Time of COVID-19**

**March 20, 2020**

The first responsibility of an Indianapolis Hiking Club hike leader is to safeguard hikers under their care. Knowing the route, always keeping the last hiker in visual contact, providing adequate water and restroom breaks are just as important as ever. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic the Board is asking all hike leaders to assume the following new responsibilities, at least until the crisis is past:

1. The hike leader should use the new sign-up sheet which includes the COVID-19 flu symptom warning (form on the website) and read the warning before every hike.
2. To avoid hikers sharing a common pen, the hike leader should sign in all hikers.
3. If more than 10 people show up for a hike (recommended maximum in a group setting), the leader should divide the hikers into multiple sections and appoint an auxiliary leader who will follow the main group by 30-40 feet while maintaining visual contact.
4. During the hike the leader should monitor and remind hikers to maintain the recommended social distance (at least 6 feet) between hikers.
5. If a hiker appears to be ill and still insists on participating, the hike leader will direct the hiker to self-isolate and follow the hike by at least 40 to 50 feet. The leader should also advise the ill hiker to not hike again until they are well.

These are new and necessary requirements, approved by the Hiking Club Board of Directors. If, as a hike leader, you do not want to follow these new requirements, you must cancel your hike(s) or find someone to lead who will follow the new rules.

**IHC Club Board of Directors**