

Dear FSD Volunteers,

As Coronavirus (COVID-19) has become an evolving and uncertain public health issue affecting people globally and close to home, we want to reassure you that nothing is more important than the health, safety and well-being of our volunteers, clients, and staff. In response, Freedom Service Dogs is taking the appropriate precautions based on information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). These precautions will impact our volunteer program, so thank you for taking the time to read through this entire message.

At this time, we are suspending all onsite volunteer classes, trainings, and meetings at Freedom Service Dogs (see below regarding exceptions for foster and puppy volunteers). **This will take effect immediately, and will extend through the end of March. We will be removing all volunteer opportunities from Volgistics as soon as possible.**

The following are cancelled through the end of March:

- All Handler 1 Classes
- All Handler 2 Classes
- All community service shifts
- All Dog Walking Classes
- All Dog Body Language Classes
- Presentation of Teams
- Community Outreach Team Debrief
- All onsite volunteer shifts

Weekend fosters please note: you may continue to foster dogs on the weekends. Please contact Shelby at scramer@freedom servicedogs.org if you are available to foster as you will not be able to sign up in Volgistics. Please use proper precautions when entering the FSD facility such as good social distancing, hand-washing, etc. ([see guidelines from Colorado Department of Public Health](#)). We have hand sanitizer throughout the building. If you are not well, please stay home and let us know so we can make a plan for getting the dog you're fostering back to FSD safely. Please put your health and safety first. If you would prefer not to foster a dog during this time, that is no problem at all. We want you to stay healthy!

Puppy Raisers and Puppy Socializers:

You will be receiving a separate email regarding upcoming classes and trainings.

How does this impact FSD staff?

Our goal is to cautiously maintain regular operations as much as possible with essential staff members being onsite for their regular shifts. Any staff members that are not feeling well must stay home. Staff members with the ability to work from home are encouraged to do so. We will use conference call technology for meetings as much as possible to reduce the number of people entering and exiting our facility. All staff will take the precautions referenced in the attached guidelines.

How does this impact FSD dogs? We plan on a "business as usual" schedule for all dogs in our facility as much as possible. The limited staff that will be onsite will be responsible for filling in the shoes of volunteers to ensure the dogs receive walks, enrichment, and exceptional care. However, we are asking everyone who interacts with the dogs to follow precautions such as staying away if they are not feeling well, washing hands, sanitizing surfaces, and refraining from having face to face contact with the dogs.

We greatly appreciate your understanding of our intentions to do our part to protect our valuable community of volunteers, and thank you in advance for your cooperation. We will be in communication with you as updates become available. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out with questions.

Warmly,

Hannah Perruccio
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