



To our NOLS community,

After suspending programs in mid-March due to coronavirus concerns worldwide, NOLS is initiating a limited scale and phased summer reopening for July and August.

The school is planning to run 32 field courses in July and August, operating from Lander, Wyoming and Boulder, Wyoming. In comparison, the school typically operates close to 287 field courses around the world during the peak summer season. A selection of Wilderness Medicine courses will be offered both domestically and internationally on a case-by-case basis. All other NOLS programming around the world will remain suspended through the summer season. The Wilderness Risk Management Conference (WRMC), scheduled for late October, will pivot to a digital event.

Like many educational organizations, NOLS has been closely monitoring the novel coronavirus pandemic both domestically and abroad. The NOLS Restart Task Force, representing leaders with extensive NOLS experience spanning our educational offerings, considered learnings from peer organizations and guidance from external public health and medical experts. The task force's methods for proceeding with limited offerings were reviewed and supported by NOLS' medical advisors, local health departments, and federal land management agencies.

Extensive changes in course sizes, structure, and logistics were devised to create educational experiences that remain true to the character of a NOLS education while supporting COVID-19 prevention strategies to limit risk to staff, students, and our community.

These practices cover all aspects of NOLS programming; students arriving for Lander-based expedition programs will start their course at a private property outside city limits in lieu of the Noble Hotel or the Rocky Mountain Campus. This allows students to be in an outdoor environment and reduces concentration in town. NOLS Wilderness Medicine practices align with others in healthcare education, and comply with relevant country, state, and local guidelines.

We are excited at this first phase of opening, and we believe our practices support getting students out and having life-changing experiences while also acknowledging the health risks of COVID-19. We anticipate learnings and programmatic adjustments while continuing to monitor the changing environment.

This initial reopening is only the first step on a long road to long-term sustainable operations and re-employment for our valued staff. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate these uncharted waters and strive to serve the school's mission and our student body.

Stay safe and well,

Terri