

## Purpose:

This document is designed to provide guidance to individuals wishing to pick up trash and litter in their community. First and foremost, thank you for beautifying your neighborhood and community by picking up trash and litter – your safety is of utmost concern to us and should be your primary consideration when deciding if it is safe to pick up litter.

Is it OK to volunteer and pick up litter in my community? This is a personal decision that only you can make, and the following will identify factors that you should consider and exercise when making your decision:

## Litter Cleanup Activities – Safety First

1. **Keep yourself safe** – Wear a safety vest and make sure you pay attention to traffic and other conditions around you while collecting litter or trash.
2. **Avoid personal injury** – Only pick up litter or trash that you can individually manage. Don't exceed your physical weight lifting limitations. Report finding any hazardous materials, weapons, or medical waste to local officials for their safe removal.
3. **Stay Hydrated and Energized** – Single-serve packaging of food and water is appropriate at this time. If using disposable cups filled from refillable containers, make sure disinfectant wipes are available and used to wipe off the water spigot/handle or outside of refillable containers between users. Keep in mind single-use gloves are not effective unless changed prior to each activity.
4. **Physical Distance** – Keep a minimum of six feet away from others, unless you live or work with them on a regular basis, while picking up litter. As shelter-in-place orders are lifted, the need for physical distancing is critical to stem off a resurgence of COVID-19.
5. **Minimize physical contact with litter\*** – It is best to use some type of litter grabber and/or protective work gloves to protect yourself from cuts, scrapes, and any contaminant that may be on the collected litter or trash.
6. **Keep your hands away from your face** – During and after collecting litter, do not touch your face with gloved hands or hands that have not been washed and sanitized.
7. **Secure the collected materials** – In an abundance of extreme caution, secure the collected litter in closable plastic bags or a trash container with a secure lid. Try to minimize the handling and transfer of the materials collected. COVID-19 is spread primarily via airborne particles, and anyone transferring materials in bulk from one container to another should take extra precautions to not come in contact with airborne particles, e.g. wear a mask\*\*\*\*, wash hands thoroughly, and don't touch clothing and then your face.
8. **Post-Cleanup Activities**
  - a. If you used any litter collection equipment, e.g. litter grabber or bucket, wipe with a disinfectant\*\*\* cloth/wipe prior to storage.
  - b. Carefully remove gloves\*\* and other protective clothing. If you plan on reusing your safety vest, gloves, and other clothing, sanitize them by washing them in a washer with regular detergent and cleaning cycles.
  - c. Wash and sanitize your hands