



COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines

# Overnight School Camps

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October 3, 2021

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## Executive Summary

The [Ministry of Education](#) and [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) released updated guidance for K-12 schools on August 24th, 2021 that permits a welcome return of overnight field trips for BC's public and independent schools, in alignment with relevant local, regional, and provincial public health recommendations and Orders. The BC Camps Association (BCCA) guidelines for overnight camps are cited in both sets of guidance as the reference for schools when planning overnight camps that include group accommodation. The BCCA guidelines, developed in conjunction with the BCCDC and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, helped to reopen overnight child and youth summer camps in BC and paved the way for a return to overnight school field trips and outdoor education programs.

These guidelines provide an update to the *BCCA COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines: Overnight Camp* to align with current K-12 public health guidance. During the school year, overnight camps are an extension of the K-12 learning environment where students share sleeping quarters, eat all meals together, and interact with camp staff. As such, the K-12 guidance provides the basis for most COVID safety in camps, and these guidelines will assist camps and schools with a return to overnight camps.

General principles for safe overnight camp operation include:

- Strongly encouraging all staff and eligible campers to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Proof of vaccination by students<sup>1</sup> and school staff is not required.
- Spending as much time outdoors as possible.
- When indoors, spreading people out in the available space and utilizing well ventilated spaces with windows and doors open to allow fresh air circulation.
- Masks will be worn indoors according to current K-12 public health guidance.
- Frequent hand hygiene.
- Camps may enact more stringent measures if they see fit for their particular circumstances.
- Camps should work with each school to understand how to best implement these guidelines in alignment with the school's internal policies and current K-12 public health guidance.

The BCCA exhorts all camps in BC operating overnight camps this fall to follow this guidance and to uphold best practices in child and youth camping.

## Introduction

The British Columbia Camps Association (BCCA) is a governing body that facilitates and promotes an in-depth Accreditation process, informs and educates its membership of camping professionals, and advocates the benefits of Accredited camps to parents and the BC public. The BCCA is composed of over 50 camps across British Columbia, including agency, religious, not-for-profit, and private camps. We believe that safe and quality camp experiences play an integral part in the development of children, youth, and adults and contribute to healthy communities. We are a proud affiliate of the Canadian Camping Association.

This document was developed by the BCCA in collaboration with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) to provide guidance to overnight child and youth camps to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this document the terms student and camper will be used interchangeably.



These guidelines were originally written specifically for BCCA Accredited camps as a supplement to the [BCCA 2021 Accreditation Standards](#). It is expected that all camps providing overnight child and youth camps follow WorksafeBC policies, hold the necessary environmental health permits, and operate within accepted industry standards. Non-accredited camps should familiarize themselves with the BCCA Accreditation Standards as to generally accepted management and human resources, facilities, health and safety, and activity programming best practices in child and youth camping. **These guidelines will be updated as required and it is the camp's responsibility to stay up to date.**

Camps are incredibly diverse in terms of their size, type of organization, mission, operating season, and activities and it isn't possible to write guidelines that apply perfectly in all situations. Camps may also provide services such as family programs, accommodation and meal service, rentals, and other activities covered by other sector-specific guidelines. When a guideline does not quite fit your circumstances we recommend speaking with your local health officer and thinking critically to put the well-being of your camp community first.

**Overnight camps must develop their own COVID-19 Safety Plan and submit it to their local medical health officer (MHO) and send a copy to the BCCA.** Camps may commence operations once their plan has been submitted but must be prepared to receive feedback and implement necessary changes after operations commence.

Local Medical Health Officers may recommend additional regional prevention measures during times of increased community risk.

Contact emails for submitting plans for camps in the following regions are:

Island Health: Cole Diplock [Cole.Diplock@viha.ca](mailto:Cole.Diplock@viha.ca) and cc [Dee.Hoyano@viha.ca](mailto:Dee.Hoyano@viha.ca), [Tanya.Bagnall@viha.ca](mailto:Tanya.Bagnall@viha.ca), and [Mariah.Siminoff@viha.ca](mailto:Mariah.Siminoff@viha.ca)

Vancouver Coastal Health: Dr. John Harding [john.harding@vch.ca](mailto:john.harding@vch.ca)

Fraser Health: Dr. Christy Burkett [Christy.Burkett@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:Christy.Burkett@fraserhealth.ca)

Interior Health: [Ephcovid19@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:Ephcovid19@interiorhealth.ca)

Northern Health: Dr. Raina Fumerton [Raina.Fumerton@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Raina.Fumerton@northernhealth.ca)

BCCA: [info@bccamping.org](mailto:info@bccamping.org)

### Additional Resources

- BC Ministry of Education: [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)
- BC Centre for Disease Control: [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)
- BC Centre for Disease Control: [COVID 19 Information](#)
- Government of BC: COVID-19 [Orders, Notices and Guidance](#)
- Government of BC: [BC's Response to COVID-19](#)
- Worksafe BC: [COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)



## Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures

Managing the risk of COVID-19 requires multiple layers of protection to be effective. The first and most important step to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at camp is to implement policies to ensure that those who are sick are not entering the camp, and that those who become sick in camp are managed appropriately. At camp the focus should be on being outdoors, reduced crowding, ventilation of indoor areas, use of masks when necessary, hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection of surfaces touched by many people.

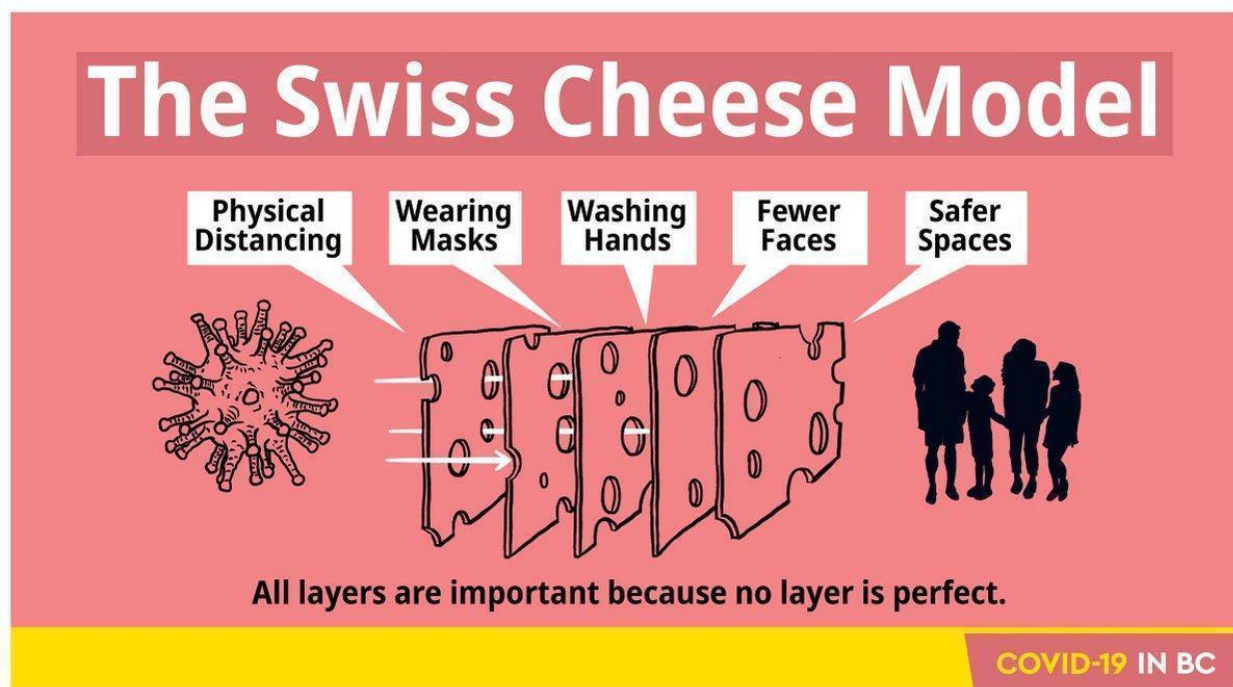
Camps should strongly encourage all eligible campers and staff to be vaccinated at least two weeks prior to the camp session per [BCCDC guidelines](#).

Infection prevention and exposure control measures help create safe environments by reducing the spread of communicable diseases like COVID-19. These are more effective in settings such as camps where there is a relatively consistent grouping of people and multiple layers of protection can be routinely implemented, including:

- Robust illness policies for campers and staff.
- Various health and safety measures taken by the camp (e.g. using outdoor space for activities, spreading out within and enhancing ventilation of indoor spaces, implementing staggered schedules, enhanced cleaning and disinfection of highly touched surfaces, etc.).
- Reinforcement and adoption of effective personal practices (e.g. hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, wearing masks when required, etc.).

A layered approach to infection prevention and exposure control should be taken to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in camps. When multiple layers of protection are in place, the approach is more likely to be effective if any one layer of protection fails. Some layers of protection rely on camp policies and practices, while others rely on individual behaviours of campers and staff. When many layers are combined, the risk of COVID-19 is substantially reduced.





- Creating space between people is an important layer because COVID-19 spreads through prolonged close contact. This can be done by conducting activities in ways that prevent crowding, like being outdoors as much as possible, adapting group activities to minimize physical contact between individuals indoors, staggering meeting times and mealtimes, rearranging activity spaces (e.g. arts & crafts room), or other means. In indoor spaces, people should be spread out within the available space, with at least enough space available to prevent involuntary physical contact. Existing occupancy limits should not be exceeded.
- Ventilation and Air Exchange: When indoors, open doors and windows to improve ventilation with fresh air (if weather allows).
- General cleaning of the premises, and cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, at least once in a 24-hour period.
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Masks: Mask use should follow current public health guidance for schools, including that they be worn indoors by all K-12 students and staff. They can be a personal choice for staff and campers during outdoor activities. Camp staff must ensure that masks are [used](#) correctly. Exceptions to mask requirements are found under Personal Protective Equipment in the [K-12 guidelines](#).
- Other layers include effective cleaning and hygiene practices, such as [handwashing](#) and [cough hygiene](#). Camps should make explicit efforts to encourage hand hygiene and cough/sneeze hygiene.

## 1. Camp Population

### 1.1. Camper Groups

Schools will develop their own structure for organizing students based on district policies, the comfort level of their school community, and board direction. Camps should work with each school to

understand how to best implement these guidelines in alignment with the school's internal policies and COVID-19 communicable disease plan and current K-12 public health guidance.

In most circumstances, the school will decide the composition of camper groups for sleeping accommodations and activities. Camps and schools can determine what is appropriate for their specific situation.

### 1.2. Camper Accommodation

- Ventilation should be optimized by use of screen doors, screened windows, etc.
- Cabin access will be limited only to the campers/camp leaders who reside in that cabin and cleaning staff who will only enter when no campers/camp leaders are present. Cleaning staff will be required to wear PPE.
- Masks should be worn in camper accommodation and only removed when in their bed for sleeping.
- Sleeping accommodations should provide a 1 metre physical distance between the heads of individuals, or if heads cannot be 1 metre apart, temporary barriers may be used (curtains, sheets).
- For bunk beds, position the head of the camper in the top bunk opposite the position of the camper in the bottom bunk.
- For side-by-side beds, position the campers head-to-toe.
- For end-to-end beds, position the campers toe-to-toe where possible, and otherwise head-to-toe to maximize distance between heads.

### 1.3. Creating Space and Minimizing Unintentional Physical Contact

- Camps are an extension of the school learning environment. Camps can return to learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches. Use all available space.
- In indoor spaces, people should have enough room to carry out the intended activity without involuntarily physical contact with another person. In indoor common spaces (e.g., cafeterias, gyms, etc.), schools may continue to use floor markings and posters to direct traffic flow.
- For indoor activities that bring together multiple classes or other groupings of students in close proximity for a prolonged period of time (e.g., school assemblies, multiple classes doing physical activity in a gym), schools should ensure that people are spread out within the available space. This is expected to be achievable within room capacity limits (where applicable).
- Taking students outside more often is still encouraged (when the weather allows) due to its overall health benefits.

## 2. Camp Personnel

### 2.1. Staff Responsibilities

Staff are required to follow WorkSafeBC policies and protocols on communicable disease prevention measures, including the use of masks in settings that are identified by camp operators. Masks are not required to be worn outdoors.

- Staff may come together for training purposes but the camp should seek to reduce the number of close face-to-face interactions and mask wearing is required indoors.





- Non-resident staff will avoid close interactions with campers or resident staff and must follow current public health guidance.
- Staff are expected to follow all current public health guidance during their time off.
- All staff are required to be trained and aware of the best practices to follow to mitigate the spread of disease during their time working and/or living at camp.

## 2.2. Staff Training

- In addition to the training normally received, staff must receive training on all COVID-19 related policies and procedures.
- Staff who will be responsible for cleaning with or mixing chemicals be sure staff are certified in WHMIS or adequate training is given.
- Camps should consider if staff training can be done virtually when possible and appropriate.

## 2.3. Staff Housing

Camp staff are allowed to be accommodated on site so long as the following criteria are met:

- Where buildings have shared indoor spaces between non-household individuals, masks are required to be worn in common spaces.
- Arrange shared accommodations for individuals in the same household in such a fashion that beds are at least 2 metres apart and head-to-toe where possible. If beds cannot be at least 2 metres apart, use temporary barriers between beds, such as curtains, to prevent droplet spread while sleeping, and sleep head-to-toe.
- None of the residents in a shared accommodation can be ill or meet a criterion that requires isolation facilities (e.g., have returned from international travel but are not fully vaccinated).
- If a resident becomes ill, they will be moved to an area separated from other staff and campers. They are to follow the BCCDC guidance on [When to get a COVID-19 test](#). The areas they were ill in will be cleaned and disinfected.
- If a resident tests positive for COVID-19, they will be sent home. If not feasible, they will complete their self-isolation on site. Any necessary health care will be facilitated with public health.
- Anyone identified by public health as close contacts will be supported to self-isolate or self-monitor, as recommended by public health. This may include going home if feasible.
- [PPE guidance](#) should be followed in staff housing when relevant.

## 3. Camp Facility

### 3.1. Outdoor Spaces and Ventilation

- Conduct activities outside whenever possible. Outdoor programming is strongly encouraged.
- If a program or activity must occur indoors, ventilate the space as much as possible (e.g. keep windows and doors open) and ensure there is enough space to prevent involuntary physical contact. Wear masks as required by current K-12 public health guidance.
- Hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing or using hand sanitizer) should be practiced before and after using playgrounds.



### 3.2. Physical Markers and Barriers

- Install markers (e.g. tape, cones, etc.) to give guidance to campers in settings where they must wait their turn or were previously allowed to gather as a large group.
- Physical barriers can continue to be used in areas they have been previously.
- Post appropriate signage reminding staff and campers of guidelines or indicating off limits areas. [BCCDC Signage](#).

### 3.3. Cleaning

Regular cleaning of surfaces and objects that are touched by many people is another layer of protection to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Camp facilities should be cleaned in accordance with the [BCCDC's guidance for K-12 schools](#). Exposure of children to potentially harmful cleaners should be minimized by product selection and scheduled cleaning times.

- Buildings should be generally cleaned daily. Cleaning is the physical removal of visible soiling (e.g. dust, soil, blood, mucus). Cleaning removes and weakens viruses and bacteria. It is done with water, detergents, and steady friction from a cleaning cloth. Cleaning once a day is usually enough to remove any virus on surfaces and help maintain a healthy facility. Disinfection should be used when a sick person has been in contact with the surface.
- High contact surfaces may need to be cleaned and disinfected more regularly, especially in areas that children use. High contact surfaces include door handles, light switches, hand railings, toilet handles, shared office equipment, sports equipment, appliances, and self-serve beverage stations.
- For cleaning, use water and detergent (e.g. liquid dishwashing soap), or common, commercially available cleaning wipes, along with good physical cleaning practices (i.e. using strong action on surfaces).
- For disinfection, use common, commercially available disinfectants such as ready-to-use disinfecting wipes and pre-made solutions (no dilution needed).
- Empty garbage containers daily.
- Complete appropriate hand hygiene after cleaning.
- Wash hands before and after wearing gloves.
- Adequate hand-washing stations must be provided.

## 4. Health and Safety

### 4.1. Vaccines

- Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools. Everyone eligible is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses) against COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them – including those who are not eligible to be vaccinated. Both doses are needed to get the most effective protection against serious cases of COVID-19 and provide longer-lasting protection.

### 4.2. Illness Policies

- Ensure that the camp has flexible sick-leave and absence policies that discourage staff from reporting to work while sick.
- Ensure the camper refund policy is clearly communicated to all camper families, including any changes relating to absences due to COVID-19 related symptoms. When possible, camps should consider a flexible refund policy that will discourage a sick child attending camp.



### 4.3. Record Keeping

In the event of illness, contact tracing will be an important activity. Prepare contact lists by camp session, cabins, or small groups (for close contacts) in advance and keep up to date at all times. These may be needed after campers have returned home to support notification of exposures.

Keep records of:

- Any occurrence involving campers or staff becoming symptomatic at camp.
- Schedules and where each camper was during the day.
- Transportation conducted by the camp, including vehicle passenger lists and seating assignments.
- Any outside visitor to the camp (parents, trades workers, delivery drivers, etc.).
- These records must be kept for a minimum of 45 days after the completion of the camp.

### 4.4. Restricted Gathering Size

School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools) should occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders. Schools are exempt from the Order on gatherings and events.

Camps hosting non-school gatherings and events must follow the [Gatherings and Events Order](#). Camps are permitted to host events under this Order.

## 5. Visitors, Parents, and Caregivers

### 5.1. Visitors

Parents, caregivers, volunteers, delivery persons, contractors, and other non-staff (e.g. visitors) entering the camp should be limited to those supporting activities that are required for the benefit of campers and the required maintenance of camp facilities.

- All visitors should provide active confirmation (e.g. sign in at entry, e-mail before entry, etc.) that they have no symptoms of illness and are not required to self-isolate before entering.
- Camps must keep a list of the date, names, and contact information for all visitors who enter the camp. Refer to camp [Drop-off and Pick-up](#) information below.
- All visitors should wear a mask in accordance with current public health guidance.

### 5.2. Camper and Parent or Caregiver Education

- Make sure that campers and their parents or caregivers are educated on all COVID-19 related policies and procedures relevant to their camp program through a combination of the registration process, pre-camp communications, on site lessons, signage, and other forms of communication.
- Be clear and concise with expectations for campers, parents, and caregivers.
- Be aware that frequent reminders for campers, particularly younger ones, will be necessary.



### 5.3. Drop-off and Pick-up

- Drop-off pick-up at the beginning and end of a session should occur outside and as close to the entrance to the property as possible. Indoor crowding should be prevented and masks must be worn.
- Reduce crowding by staggering pick-up and drop-off times if possible.
- If possible, use multiple pick-up and drop-off locations.
- A health screening at drop-off may be conducted by asking parents and caregivers to confirm that their child does not have any symptoms relating to COVID-19.

## 6. Program and Operations

### 6.1. Program Activities

- Facilitate all activities outside whenever possible (e.g. arts and crafts, snack time, etc.).
- Have foul weather contingency plans. Shared indoor spaces should have enough room to carry out the intended activity without involuntarily physical contact with another person. Follow current K-12 mask guidance.
- Choose or modify activities so that they minimize physical contact. Do not schedule high contact games or sports.
- Shared equipment must be cleaned daily (e.g. bows and arrows).
- Create multiple activity spaces within your facility to facilitate the reduced number of campers in a group (e.g. set up 2 or 3 areas for crafts).
- The risk of COVID-19 transmission is increased when people are singing together in-person. Singing indoors is not permitted.
- Relevant activity-specific guidance may be found at the following links. It is important to remember that these may no longer reflect current public health guidance and the principles of vaccination for all eligible people, outdoor spaces, no crowding, and good hygiene are the primary layers of protection.
  - Challenge Courses: [ACCT](#) for operation and equipment cleaning.
  - Climbing Wall: WorksafeBC protocols for [Climbing Walls](#).
  - Swimming: [Lifesaving BC for pool and waterfront operations](#).
  - Equestrian: [Equestrian Canada: COVID-19 Return to Business Operations Framework](#).
- Camps providing backcountry/wilderness out-trips must adapt these guidelines and comply with the Out-Tripping standards in the [BCCA 2021 Accreditation Standards](#).
  - Members of a backcountry/wilderness out-trip can share tents and be part of a food group.

### 6.2. Transportation

- Transportation provided by the school to/from camp will follow [guidance for K-12 schools](#).
- Group transport should be for unavoidable transport only, not recreational travel.
- Masks must be worn by K-12 students and staff prior to boarding vehicles or vessels and hand sanitizer must be provided before loading and after unloading. Please refer to [Transport Canada](#) for information for commercial drivers.
- On buses, spread people out if empty seats are available. If 15 passenger vans or other non-commercial vehicles are being utilized for camp transports, alternate seats and space passengers appropriately.
- Frequently-touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day and when visibly dirty. These include items touched by larger numbers of people (e.g. door handles, hand rails,



etc.). Surfaces touched by fewer people (e.g. seats) should be cleaned 1x/day. Other general cleaning should occur in line with regular practices.

- Passengers must sanitize or wash their hands before loading the vehicle.
- Loud talking or singing in enclosed spaces like vehicles is not allowed.
- If camps are using contracted transportation providers, they should contact the service provider to ensure that appropriate measures are in place for physical distancing, cleaning and sanitization, and their general COVID-19 procedures.

### 6.3. Food Service

Food service to campers and/or staff must ensure the following:

- Proof of vaccination is not required for dining at camps.
- [Food Safety Legislation](#) continues to apply as relevant.
- Self-serve food and beverage stations are permitted, however camps should only provide self-serve options if campers are capable of following hand sanitizing and physical distancing guidance. If there is a self-serve food or drink station:
  - Hand washing facilities or alcohol-based sanitizers must be within easy reach of the station.
  - Signs reminding patrons to wash or sanitize their hands before touching self-serve food, drink or other items, must be posted at the self-serve station.
  - High touch surfaces at the station, and utensils that are used for self-serve, must be regularly cleaned and sanitized.
- All persons will practice proper hand hygiene upon entry to the dining hall and after eating.
- Food distribution should ensure there is no gathering or crowding of campers and staff.
- Food can be served family-style, by staff-assisted buffet or pre-plated.
- When possible, serve meals and snacks outside.
- Singing is not permitted in the dining hall. Loud talking should be avoided.
- Camps should emphasize that food and beverages should not be shared.
- Campers and staff should be encouraged to bring an individual water bottle or other beverage container to camp for their personal use to support hydration needs.
- Refilling stations can be used to refill personal containers. These should not include bathroom sinks or other water sources not typically used for drinking water.

### 6.4. First Aid

- The FA attendant and patient should wear masks while care is being provided.
- When possible, the FA attendant should guide the patient to do their own first aid (e.g. an older camper could put on their own band-aid).
- Use approved procedures, mask, gloves, and eye protection for all first aid applications. See [PPE measures](#).
- If CPR is required, use a pocket mask with a viral filter or a bag-valve-mask with an HME filter to protect the first aider from possible infection. See section [PPE measures](#).
- This [WorksafeBC information sheet](#) provides information to employers and occupational first aid attendants on safely treating patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides additional precautions to first aid attendants on following the public health directives—including physical distancing, hand hygiene, and sanitization—while treating a patient.
- LifeSaving Society COVID-19 recommendations are available [here](#).



## 7. Health Checks and Responding to Symptoms

### 7.1. Pre-Camp & Daily Health Check

In the week leading up to camp families are asked to monitor their camper(s) for the symptoms listed below. Camps will also send a link to the [BC Covid-19 Self Assessment Tool](#) to families to complete on behalf of their camper(s) the day before the camp session begins. This process will apply to staff and volunteers prior to arrival at camp.

K-12 guidelines from the BCCDC state that school administrators ensure that staff, other adults entering the school, parents, caregivers and students are aware that they should not come to school if they are sick. A daily health check for this purpose is recommended. While schools do not need to confirm a daily health check has been done or monitor students and staff for symptoms of illness, overnight camps should perform this function since students are away from parents or caregivers.

All persons will be screened daily for the following COVID-19 symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing

Other symptoms may include:

- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache
- Body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

See [Symptoms \(bccdc.ca\)](#) for more details.

Camp leaders or teachers will assist campers in completing their daily screening. Daily screening records will be kept onsite for the duration of the camping season.

Any person with a failed screening will be immediately moved to a supervised (if appropriate) space where they can wait comfortably that is separated from others and the procedures for [What To Do When Symptoms Develop At Camp](#) followed.

- Camp staff should complete a daily employee health check to confirm they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 or been a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19. This can take the form of a written check, verbal check, or online check.
- Parents/caregivers should complete a [daily health check](#) for their child in the days prior to the camp. A child who has answered Yes to any question is not allowed to attend camp and must follow public health guidance.
- Camps may develop their own daily health check procedure or use the Ministry of Education's [K-12 Health Check](#) app for campers or the [BC Self-Assessment Tool](#) for campers and staff.



## 7.2. Staying Home and Self-Isolation

The following campers, staff, or other persons are required to stay home and [self-isolate](#):

- Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should stay home and follow public health guidance when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Anyone who has travelled outside of Canada should follow federal travel requirements when re-entering Canada.
- Anyone who lives in a household with someone who has COVID-19.
- Anyone who has been identified by Public Health as a close contact of someone with COVID-19.
  - If a person is found to be a confirmed case of COVID-19, public health staff will ensure there is robust contact tracing and management of any clusters or outbreaks.
  - Public health will also ensure that children, staff, and parents/caregivers have access to healthcare providers and that appropriate supports are in place.

## 7.3. What To Do When Symptoms Develop At Camp

Isolation plans for ill staff and campers (and accommodating more than one ill person at a time) on site needs to be robust and safe (especially if isolating a younger camper). Anticipate that some ill people may not be able to return home immediately or at all (e.g. staff who come from out of province or region), and may need to isolate for an extended period of time (up to 10 days) on site.

- If a camper or staff member develops symptoms of illness, isolate them away from others immediately. Arrange for a COVID-19 test if [recommended](#).
  - Camps should consider Point of Contact (POC) testing for symptomatic individuals. POC testing provides rapid screening of potential cases and is especially useful in remote locations and where access to community testing centres is difficult.
  - Free Provincial Health Services Authority testing information is available [here](#). The application process and delivery involve some work and training to complete.
  - Private testing kits are available for as little as \$6.50 per test. This may be the better option for testing small numbers of symptomatic individuals.
- The person will remain in isolation and be supervised and kept comfortable and safe until test results are returned:
  - If the person tests positive, they will need to be picked up from camp by their caregiver within 24 hours. Provincial health authorities will be notified.
  - If the person tests negative and symptoms resolve, they can return to programming.
  - While waiting for a sick child to be tested or picked up, a staff member should stay with the child in a room isolated from others or at least 2 metres from others if a separate room is not available. The staff person should remain as far away as possible from the child (preferably at least 2 metres). A mask should be worn by both the camper (if tolerated) and the staff person.
  - A sick staff member should isolate themselves in their accommodation or a private room until a COVID-19 test can be arranged.
  - Anyone who is rapidly getting more ill or seeming to be in distress should be seen by medical personnel as soon as possible, with 911 called if necessary.
- If anyone who has entered the camp facility is diagnosed with COVID-19, they should follow public health authority advice.
- Report to the local [public health authority](#) any cluster of illness among the camp staff or campers.

## 7.4. Finding, Tracing, and Managing Outbreaks

- The role of finding, tracing, and managing outbreaks is the responsibility of Public Health, not camp staff.
- If there is a confirmed case, cluster, or outbreak of COVID-19 in a camp, the local medical health officer will lead the response. This includes working with the camp to determine if any additional measures or changes to the camp's health and safety plan are required. Self-isolation of individuals and additional measures such as cleaning and temporary restriction or modification of certain camp activities may be required. Only in exceptional circumstances would a medical health officer consider a camp closure.
- Clear and concise record keeping by camp staff of all persons entering the camp property and incidents that occur at camp can help public health staff accomplish their job.
- Attendance should be taken each day, including staff, volunteers, and any parents, caregivers, or guests who remain on site for any length of time, to assist in contact tracing should the need arise.

## 8. Personal Health Practices

### 8.1. Hand Hygiene

Proper hand washing with plain soap and water reduces the spread of illness. Everyone should practice diligent hand washing when arriving at camp, before and after eating, and before leaving. Throughout the day, hands should be sanitized with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.

- Camps must ensure campers have access to at least one sink for hand washing with soap and water.
- Wash hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol may be used if sinks are not available.
- If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand sanitizers may not be effective at eliminating respiratory viruses. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty.
- Include regular hand washing times in daily schedules.
- Ensure the camp is well-stocked with hand washing supplies at all times including plain soap, clean towels, paper towels, waste bins, and, where appropriate, hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol.
- Children regularly forget about proper hand washing. Staff and campers should practice, and staff should model washing hands properly in a fun and relaxed way.
- Staff should assist young campers with hand hygiene as needed.
- An information sheet on when campers and staff should practice hand hygiene is included in [Appendix A](#).

### 8.2. Respiratory Etiquette

- Cough and sneeze into your elbow. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene. Teach this to both campers and staff.
- Remind campers and staff to avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, or unwashed utensils.





## 9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Masks play an important role in preventing the spread of COVID-19. They provide some protection to the wearer and to those around them. Masks do not prevent the spread of COVID-19 on their own and should not be used in place of any other measures noted in this guidance. Masks can be safely worn by school-aged children. The term 'mask' in this document means a non-medical mask or face covering. Medical-grade masks are not recommended within camp settings for general use.

### 9.1. Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings (Masks)

Staff are required to follow WorkSafeBC policies and protocols on communicable disease prevention measures, including the use of masks in indoor settings. .

Campers:

- Masks are required to be worn by all K-12 students and staff when indoors except when:
  - Eating or drinking
  - They are in their going to sleep
- The camp can align with the mask policies the school uses for staff and students. The camp may enact their own more strict mask policies for camp staff if deemed appropriate for their circumstances.
- Staff should be trained on proper donning and doffing of PPE such as masks. Refer to WorksafeBC for details.

### 9.2. Gloves

- Gloves should be worn for COVID-19 disinfecting and cleaning measures and disposed of after use.
- Staff should be trained on proper donning and doffing of PPE such as gloves. Refer to [WorksafeBC](#) for details.

### 9.3. Face Shields

- Face shields are not required in the camp setting and should not be worn as a replacement for a non-medical mask. A person choosing to wear a face shield should wear a mask in addition to the face shield.
- Staff should be trained on proper donning and doffing of PPE such as face shields. Refer to [WorksafeBC](#) for details.

### 9.4. Emergency First Aid PPE

- Camps are required to have the following PPE available for staff use in the event of a first aid emergency that could be deemed high risk (i.e. aerosol generating activities such as chest compressions, ventilations, high flow oxygen administration-greater than 5 lpm, suction, abdominal thrusts/back blows).
  - Respiratory Protection: N95 Mask (non-valve) or Surgical Mask (3-layered).
  - Eye Protection: Where possible face shields or personal protective goggles should be used during high risk first aid scenarios.
  - Body Protection: Long-sleeved water resistant gowns should be used to prevent body contamination.



## BCCA COVID-19 GUIDELINES - OVERNIGHT SCHOOL CAMPS

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- Bag Valve Mask with Viral Filter (e.g. HEPA): for use during ventilations. Viral filters must remain in their original packaging.
- Pocket Mask with a Viral Filter (e.g. HEPA): viral filters must remain in their original packaging.
- More information can be found at [WorksafeBC](https://www.worksafebc.com).



## Appendix A: When to Perform Hand Hygiene at Camp

When Campers Should Perform Hand Hygiene	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When they arrive at camp</li><li>• Before and after any activities</li><li>• Before and after eating and drinking (excluding from their water bottle during activities)</li><li>• Before and after using an indoor space used by multiple cohorts (e.g. arts &amp; crafts room)</li><li>• After using the toilet</li><li>• After sneezing or coughing into hands</li><li>• Whenever hands are visibly dirty</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When they arrive at camp</li><li>• Before and after any breaks</li><li>• Before and after eating and drinking</li><li>• Before and after handling food or assisting camper with eating</li><li>• After using the toilet</li><li>• After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood)</li><li>• After cleaning tasks</li><li>• After removing gloves</li><li>• After handling garbage</li><li>• Whenever hands are visibly dirty</li></ul>

