



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



HOW YOU CAN SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Take care of others by taking care of yourself.

Wash your hands, don't touch your face, and stay home if you are sick.

Stay at Home and Physically Distance

Stay at home whenever you can. Maintain 2 meters distance from those outside of your household.

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Summer Day Camp Settings

UPDATED: July 7, 2020



Ministry of Health



BC Centre for Disease Control

If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.



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NOTICE

As of May 29, 2020, **overnight camps for children and youth under the age of 19 are prohibited** by the [Order of the Provincial Health Officer](#).

Staff and/or campers who are experiencing [symptoms of COVID-19](#) or who have been identified as a close contact to a positive case of COVID-19 are **not permitted** to attend a camp until symptoms have resolved. Staff and / or campers who have returned from travel outside of Canada are **not permitted** to attend a camp until self-isolation has ended.

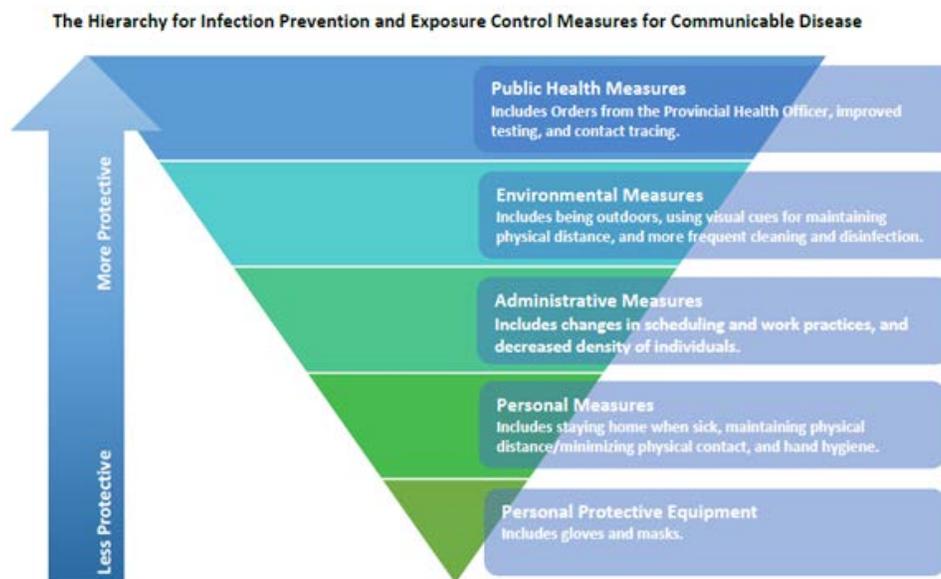
Please see the [BCCDC Self-Isolation site](#) for information.

Background

This document provides guidance for day camp operators, administrators and staff to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and maintain a safe and healthy environment for campers and staff.

COVID-19 and Children and Youth

COVID-19 tends to have a low infection rate among children and youth. Evidence suggests children and youth become infected with COVID-19 primarily in household settings where a household member (usually an adult) has the infection. The majority of people who become infected with COVID-19 will experience a mild illness; many children and youth will not experience symptoms at all, but common symptoms include a low-grade fever and dry cough. Evidence has not concluded whether asymptomatic children pose a risk to other children or adults. Children who are less than a year old and children who are immunocompromised or have pre-existing lung conditions are at a higher risk of severe disease.



Public Health Measures

Mass Gatherings

The Provincial Health Officer's Order on Mass Gatherings does not apply to day camps as long as campers and staff are not all in one area and if they are able to practice physical distancing as much as possible. Large assemblies of staff and campers – particularly indoors – should not be held.

Case Finding, Contact Tracing and Outbreak Management

Active testing of people with mild COVID-19 like symptoms helps public health to identify cases (case finding). If a person is found to be a confirmed case of COVID-19, public health staff will conduct contact tracing to identify any close contacts and manage any clusters or outbreaks. Public health will also ensure that campers, staff, and parents have access to health care providers and that appropriate supports are in place to support self-isolation.

Self-isolation and Quarantine

Campers and staff who are arriving to camp from outside of Canada should verify that they have self-isolated in BC for a minimum of 14 days without symptoms prior to attending the camp. Anyone with cold, flu, or COVID-19-like symptoms should self-isolate (see information on BCCDC's website on how to properly [self-isolate](#)), use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#), and follow directions to contact 8-1-1 or a health care provider to be tested for COVID-19. Self-isolation should occur for at least 10 days since the beginning of symptoms, fever is no longer present, and you are feeling better. Coughing may persist for several weeks, and children experiencing symptoms (including lingering cough) should not attend camps. Children should stay home from camp until all symptoms resolve.

Travelers who return to BC from outside of Canada are required by Order of the Provincial Health Officer and the federal Quarantine Order to self-isolate for a period of 14 days.

Personal Measures

Stay Home When Sick

- Camp operators should have flexible sick-leave policies that support staff to stay home when sick;
- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to camp;
- Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the camp;
- Anyone who is sick is not to attend camp;
- Anybody who has symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home and self-isolate;
- Those unsure of if they or a camper should self-isolate should use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#).
 - If concerned, they can be advised to contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further input.
 - They can also be advised to contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory diseases.
- Camp operators / administrators should establish procedures for campers and staff who become sick while at camp to be sent home as soon as possible (see Appendix A for suggestions);
- Screening campers or staff for temperatures or COVID-19 testing are activities reserved for health care professionals.

Hand Hygiene

Both campers and staff can pick up and spread germs easily from objects, surfaces, food and people. Rigorous hand washing with liquid plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. Parents and staff should teach and reinforce diligent hand hygiene practices amongst themselves and campers.

How to practice diligent hand hygiene:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds regularly. Antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19;
- If sinks are not available (e.g., if campers and staff are outdoors), use an alcohol-based hand rub containing at least 60% alcohol;
- If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub may not be effective at eliminating respiratory viruses. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty.

To learn about how to perform hand hygiene, please refer to the BCCDC's [hand washing poster](#).

Strategies to ensure diligent hand hygiene:

- Ensure hand washing supplies are well stocked at all times including soap, paper towels and where soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand rub with a minimum of 60% alcohol;
- Place hand washing stations in various locations including camp entrances to encourage appropriate hand hygiene throughout the day;
- Encourage hand washing with water and soap upon arrival at camp, before and after activities, before and after eating, and after using the washroom;
- Regularly remind staff and campers about the importance of diligent hand hygiene;
- Incorporate additional hand hygiene opportunities into the daily schedule; and
- Staff should assist younger campers with hand hygiene as needed.

Respiratory Etiquette

Campers and staff should:

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow sleeve or a tissue, throw away used tissues, and immediately wash their hands;
- Refrain from touching their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands; and
- Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, or unwashed utensils.

Administrative Measures

Physical Distancing and Minimizing Physical Contact

Physical distancing (i.e., maintaining a distance of 2 metres between two or more people) can be challenging in a day camp setting, particularly with younger campers. Cohorting campers can help minimize contacts where physical distancing is hard to maintain. Younger campers should be supported to have minimized physical contact with one another, while older campers and adults should seek to maintain a safe physical distance whenever possible.

The following physical distancing strategies should be implemented where possible in the day camp setting:

- Avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes);
- Regularly remind campers to “keep your hands to yourself”;
- Spread people out into different areas and utilize outdoor space more than indoor space;
- Group sports activities should be organized outside wherever possible, and should begin and end with hand washing;
- If indoor space is used, ensure rooms are appropriate for the size of the group, with separate, dedicated workspaces / play spaces for each child and that the room has stocked hand hygiene stations;

- Prioritize activities that don't require physical interaction between students;
- Consider different activity and learning environment configurations to allow distance between campers and adults (e.g., different desk and table formations);
- While singing and playing brass or wind instruments are considered high risk activities for transmission, in communities with low levels of COVID-19 these activities are less risky, particularly among children and youth. Consider holding these activities outdoors as much as possible, and adjust the time spent on these activities if there is an increase in community-level transmission;
- Camps may require increased staff numbers allowing for a greater number of groups with fewer children and dedicated staff;
- Stagger snack, lunch, and activity transition times to provide a greater amount of space;
- Stagger pick-up and drop-off times;
- Manage flow of people in common areas; and
- Parents, caregivers and other non-staff adults entering the camp should be minimized; those who do enter are to practice hand hygiene and maintain physical distance when in the camp areas.

Camper Transportation on Buses / Shuttles

Buses or shuttles used for transporting campers should be cleaned and disinfected according the guidance provided in the BCCDC's [Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings](#) document.

Additional measures should be taken, including:

- Consider installing a physical barrier between the driver and passengers (e.g., plexiglass); and
- Have campers sit in their own seat.

Environmental Measures

Cleaning and Disinfection

Regular cleaning and disinfection can help to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. If possible, designate equipment (e.g., art supplies, sports equipment, toys) solely for the use by a single cohort and sanitize between practices or uses. If equipment must be shared between cohorts, it should be sanitized before and after each use. The risk of COVID-19 transmission by cash and documents is low and is expected to be similar to other common surfaces such as doorknobs and handrails. There is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper-based resources to campers because of COVID-19. However, staff and campers should handwash frequently and avoid touching their faces with unwashed hands.

Camps should be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's [Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings](#) document.

This includes:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises should occur at least **once a day**;
- Frequently-touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least **twice a day**, including door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, keyboards and toys;
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty;
- Use common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products and closely follow the instructions on the label;

- Limit the use of or do not use items that are not easily cleaned (e.g., plush toys);
- Empty garbage containers daily; and
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine). Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.

Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment are medical grade devices that are regulated by Health Canada and are not needed beyond those used by staff as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work.

Wearing a mask is a personal choice. Masks help to reduce droplet transmission from the wearer to the outside environment; medical masks, when worn properly, can offer a level of protection to the wearer. More information about masks is available [here](#).

For up-to-date information, commonly asked questions, posters, and more, visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\) website](#).

Appendix A: What to Do if a Camper or Staff Member Develops Symptoms at Camp

<i>If a Camper Develops Symptoms of COVID-19</i>	<i>If a Staff Member Develops Symptoms of COVID-19</i>
<p data-bbox="224 365 773 394">IF CAMPER DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:</p> <p data-bbox="144 422 841 560">Parents or caregivers must keep their child at home. The camper must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.*</p> <p data-bbox="224 598 773 627">IF CAMPER DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT CAMP:</p> <p data-bbox="144 655 581 684">Staff must take the following steps:</p> <ol data-bbox="144 688 846 1398" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately separate the symptomatic camper from others in a supervised area. 2. Contact the camper’s parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible. 3. Where possible, maintain a distance of 2 metres from the ill camper. 4. Provide the camper with tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and ensure the camper and staff member wash their hands. 5. Avoid touching the camper’s body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If you do, practice diligent hand hygiene. 6. Once the camper is picked up, practice diligent hand hygiene. 7. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the camper was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., bathroom, common areas). 8. Contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to notify them of a potential case and seek further input. <p data-bbox="144 1438 824 1505">Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.</p>	<p data-bbox="927 365 1446 394">IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:</p> <p data-bbox="875 422 1490 560">Staff must be excluded from work and stay home. Staff must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.*</p> <p data-bbox="927 588 1446 617">IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT WORK:</p> <p data-bbox="875 644 1386 674">Staff should go home as soon as possible. If unable to leave immediately:</p> <ol data-bbox="875 678 1490 1207" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Symptomatic staff should separate themselves into an area away from others. 2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. 3. Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be picked up. 4. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the staff member was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., bathroom, common areas). Take appropriate precautions when cleaning and disinfecting, and ensure to perform hand hygiene upon completion. 5. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further input.
<p data-bbox="180 1663 1455 1734">*If a camper or staff member is assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined that they do NOT have COVID-19, they may return to camp once symptoms resolve.</p>	