



# Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



## Guidance for Owners and Operators of Public Outdoor Playground Equipment and Spray Parks

July 3, 2020

Playground equipment and spray parks were closed by operators to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Operators are seeking advice on safely re-opening these facilities. This document identifies key infection prevention and exposure control practices for owners/operators to implement, as well as personal measures that people using these facilities should be supported to implement.

### COVID-19 and Children and Youth

COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children and youth. In BC, less than 1% of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive. Most children and youth are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection. Children are not the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in community settings. There is no current evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playground environments.

### Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures

Infection prevention and exposure control measures help create a safe environment for playground and spray park users. These include environmental, administrative and personal measures.

**Environmental Measures** are changes to the physical environment that reduce the risk of exposure.

**Administrative Measures** are measures enabled through the implementation of policies, procedures and education.

**Personal Measures** are actions individuals can take to protect themselves and other.

Owners and operators of public outdoor playground equipment and spray parks can implement environmental and administrative measures.

### Environmental Measures

- Before opening, carefully inspect equipment to verify its safety.
- Where present, open washrooms.
  - Ensure sinks are stocked with plain soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  - Clean and disinfect washrooms at least [twice daily](#).
- Where possible, switch drinking water fountains to touchless or foot pedal operation.

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



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- Ensure garbage bins are available.
  - Use garbage bins with removable linings.
  - Change the linings frequently enough to prevent overflow.

Outdoor playground and spray park equipment does not need to be cleaned or disinfected.

### Administrative Measures

- Consider limiting playground and/or spray park capacity to ensure 2-metre distancing by adults can be maintained, and to prevent overcrowding.
- Post signage around the park to remind users of the personal measures they need to take, including:
  - Sick children or adults must not enter the playground or spray park
  - Adults from different households should stay 2 metres apart from each other
  - Children should clean their hands before and after using the playground or spray park
  - People should not enter if the park appears crowded, or that physical distance between adults cannot be maintained.
  - The playground/spray park equipment is not being cleaned or disinfected.

Locally created signage can be used.

### Other Considerations

The Provincial Health Officer [Mass Gathering Events](#) Order only applies if an event is being held in a park, playground or spray park. Otherwise, more than 50 people can gather as long as physical distance (i.e. 2 metres) can be maintained between adults from different households.

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