



OUTDOOR & ADVENTURE

*WILDLIFE, NATURE & CULTURAL TOURS,
WHALE WATCHING & BOATING ADVENTURES,
PADDLING, HIKING & WALKING, GOLF,
HUNTING & FISHING*

Best Practices

Pre-trip Communication with Guests

- Inform guests that you are taking precautions to limit potential viral spread
- Describe those precautions depending on state of pandemic at the time
- Inform guests of waivers and ensure they understand and acknowledge
- Require guests to sign a declaration of health and exposure. Limit participation to those who can attest to being well, to not having been exposed to anyone who is sick, and to not having traveled outside their province/territory within 14 days of the commencement of the trip
- You may also choose to increase the stringency of your screening by limiting participation to lower risk demographics
- All payment should be digital

Pre-trip Communication with Employees/Workers

- Inform fellow workers that you are taking precautions to limit potential viral spread and that their participation on the trip is dependent on their agreement to abide by these guidelines
- Describe those precautions depending on the state of the pandemic at the time
- Prior to issuing contract, determine whether worker is sick or recently has been exposed to someone who is sick -make your best call on whether to hire that person
- If you are choosing to reduce the overall level of risk on the trip, describe why and make it clear that increasing the level of risk in the field may not be done without consultation with you

Pre-trip Meeting

- Hold the meeting virtually or find a space where communication is easily done while respecting physical distancing guidelines
- Discuss in detail the pandemic-related mitigation you are instituting on the trip
- Review emergency protocols specific to viral mitigation - see First Aid and Emergency Response below
- Review limits to risk exposure and requirement for consultation before increasing the limit

Transportation (all activities)

- Guests should arrive at the meet-up location in their own vehicles
- For commercial vehicle operators and for boating experiences see Transportation section

Group Hygiene (all activities)

- Have alcohol-based hand sanitizer on hand at all times
- Provide sanitizer to guests during meals or other rest stops; if guests have their own supply and it is as effective as yours, require them to use it during these times
- Require that guests do not engage in physical contact unless they are residents of the same household
- Require that guests do not pass around food or beverage to one another unless they are residents of the same household

First Aid and Emergency Response

- Carry additional masks and gloves in the first aid kit
- Use approved mask, gloves and eye protection for all first aid applications
- Dispose of mask and gloves after use
- If rescue is required, ensure victim is masked

Post-trip Communication with Employees/Workers

- In feedback sessions or forms, ask guides whether the modified best practices significantly impaired their ability to deliver a safe and enjoyable experience for their guests
- Follow-up with guides who indicate that the experience was negatively impacted and discuss how to go forward
- Revise your plan as necessary
- Post-trip Communication with Guests
- In feedback sessions or forms, ask guests whether they felt adequately protected from viral infection and whether the modified best practices negatively impacted their experience

Equipment and PPE (all activities where equipment is provided)

- Before each trip ensure all company/guide owned soft goods have either been isolated for a minimum of three days or have been washed in warm, soapy water
- Before each trip ensure all company/guide owned packs, tents, sleeping pads and footwear have either been isolated for a minimum of three days or have been wiped down with warm, soapy water
- Before each trip, ensure all company/guide owned sleeping bags and liners have been cleaned according to manufacturer's instructions
- Before each trip ensure all company/guide owned hard goods have either been isolated for a minimum of three days or have been washed in warm, soapy water. For hard goods with no soft material or plastic, spraying with a dilute solution of bleach and water followed by adequately drying is an acceptable alternative.
- Ensure there is an adequate supply of appropriate masks for the length of trip and the number of participants, depending on the level of public health status

Foundational Decision-Making Principles

There are too many variations on a theme to be prescriptive about the activities you can do and the number of guests you can take. If you satisfy all the following principles, you should find yourself within acceptable safety limits:

- Maintain provincially/territorially recommended physical distancing or don appropriate PPE when you find yourself in a situation where you can't comply
- Everyone in the group should adhere to provincial travel recommendations
- Increase participant group sizes only with members of the same household
- Scale back the seriousness of your objective enough to allow you to follow the guidelines and to reduce the possibility of the need for close contact first aid or external rescue
- Choose routes and/or activities that minimize transfer of gear
- Avoid crowded areas or popular routes. Ensure 2 meter distance when passing other parties on trails/paths
- If you need to make a rapid retreat due to an emergent situation, speed trumps the potential transmission of the virus. The immediate safety of your guests is priority one; preventing possible contagion is lower on the list

High Winds

Because wind can carry droplets, you can reduce the chances of viral spread during windy conditions by increasing your physical distancing or by donning masks.

Passing Others on Trails

Narrow trails present contact and distancing challenges for people trying to pass one another. Where possible, communicate with the approaching person or group and decide on who will move safely off the trail until the others have gone by. If it is unsafe to keep a two-meter spread, move as far as is safely possible and ensure the passing party moves by quickly and with no physical contact.

Additional Resources

- **Canadian Mountain Guides:** <https://www.acmg.ca/absolutenm/articlefiles/3633-COVID-19%20Best%20Practices%20%20Return%20to%20Work%20%20ACMG%20Members%20.pdf>
- **SEPAQ:** <https://www.sepaq.com/covid-19/#engagement>