

STAGE 2: GUIDANCE FOR CAMPS

Overview

Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order 25-2020 requires businesses and entities to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- comply, to the extent possible, with any applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: alberta.ca/bizconnect.aspx.

Where any part of this guidance is inconsistent or in conflict with enhanced or stronger public health restrictions set out in another CMOH Order, the enhanced or stronger public health measures would prevail. Operators are also required to follow the [General Operational Guidance](#) and any other applicable CMOH orders.

This document has been developed to support operators/organizers of day and overnight camps in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including workers, campers, volunteers and the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control requirements specific to these settings and activities. In all settings, it is important that measures are implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

This includes, but is not limited to ensuring: physical distancing, barrier use (where appropriate), proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, records management and building maintenance (e.g., ventilation).

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

General Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operators are expected to review and follow the General Operational Guidance.• Operators should notify campers and their caregivers of steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission,<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Caregivers (e.g., parents, guardians) should be notified about the importance of their role in these measures.• Physical distancing between households should be practiced, unless otherwise identified in this document.• Programs should develop procedures for drop off and pick up that support physical distancing and separate cohorts to the greatest extent possible, which may include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ separate cohort entrances, having one designated caregiver (e.g., parent/guardian) pick up and drop off each camper, staggering entry, or limiting the number of people in entry areas.
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COVID-19 INFORMATION

STAGE 2: GUIDANCE FOR CAMPS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ restricting non-essential visitors at the camp.● To support public health contact tracing efforts in the event that an attendee tests positive or an outbreak is identified, operators should collect the names and contact information for all attendees and visitors (e.g., participant caregivers)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If Alberta Health Services determines a COVID-19 case to be infectious during the camp all of the members of the cohort who had interactions with each other during the infectious period of the case will be considered close contacts, and be required to quarantine as per current quarantine requirements.
Masking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All Albertans must wear masks indoors at all times, except when:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ consuming food or drink; or○ engaging physical activity (e.g., sport, fitness, dance) indoors.● Councillors, instructors, group leaders, staff and chaperones must be masked in all indoor locations.● Masking recommendation may change throughout the summer, and camps should monitor provincial or local requirements/recommendations.
Shared Equipment and Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Equipment/materials must be clean and sanitized at the point of use/play.● If the organizer is providing equipment or materials, they should minimize shared use of equipment/materials, and, if possible, assign specific equipment/materials to each attendee.● For sports/activities that require shared equipment to be handled (e.g., shared baseballs, basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, volleyballs, gymnastics equipment, etc.), participants need to perform hand hygiene before and after the activity.● Organizers must discontinue the use of equipment/materials that are in disrepair, as these items cannot be effectively sanitized.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Activities must not violate a public health order or current public health measures.● Operators must follow the appropriate guidance on Alberta BizConnect for camp activities (e.g., Guidance for the Performing Arts, Guidance for Sport, Fitness and Recreation).● As much as possible, these activities should take place outdoors or in larger, well ventilated facilities.
Cohorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Groups should operate in cohorts of 50 participants or fewer.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A cohort is defined as a group of campers and staff members assigned to them who stay together throughout the day, day-to-day and overnight.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

STAGE 2: GUIDANCE FOR CAMPS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The cohort should remain the same through the duration of the camp, and each time the group meets, including the assigned staff members.○ Where possible, physical distancing practices should occur even within cohorts.○ Cohorts cannot mix with other cohorts or be within in the same room/space at the same time. This includes pickups and drop-offs, mealtimes, playtime, outdoor activities, staff rooms, etc.● If a staff member must work with more than one group (e.g., instructor for specific class), they are not part of the cohort.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ They must follow the rules for coaches, instructors or trainers, as outlined in activity specific guidance (e.g., Guidance for the Performing Arts, Guidance for Sport, Fitness and Recreation) and any CMOH Orders.● More than one program can be offered per building as long as separation between programs is maintained (separate entrances/exits, washrooms) and all health requirements are followed.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If cohorts must share the same room or space for a short period of time, such as when a camper or staff member needs to access a washroom, maintain 2 metres distance between cohorts.
Accommodations and Sleeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff and volunteers should remain assigned and reside in the same accommodation (e.g., cabin, dorm) through the duration of their employment at the camp.● Campers and staff accommodation should remain the same for the duration of their stay at the camp. Individuals should not be rotated through different facilities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Maintain a roster of individuals who reside in the accommodation.○ Personal belongings organized and separate from others' belongings.● Accommodation access should be limited to persons who reside in the facility and COVID-19 compliance monitors.● Hand hygiene should be encouraged prior to entering the accommodation.
Screening and Response Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The operator must notify caregivers that participants exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are not permitted to attend the camp.● Prior to the start of an overnight camp, the operator should require parent/guardians to provide evidence of a symptom check for the camper using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist.● Programs should keep records of a camper's known pre-existing conditions.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

STAGE 2: GUIDANCE FOR CAMPS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Written confirmation by a physician that a camper's or staff member's symptoms are due to a chronic illness is not necessary.
COVID-19 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Consider having rapid antigen COVID-19 testing onsite for any attendees that become symptomatic.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Operators are to follow the manufacturer's instructions when completing any rapid COVID-19 testing.○ Any individuals who tests positive for COVID-19 must be isolated immediately.● Operators may test participants at the intake portion of the camp, prior to parents/guardians leaving.● Operators should not test any person who has been a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in the previous 90 days.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Operators should encourage caregivers disclose any positive COVID-19 tests the participant has had which occurred in the 90 days preceding the start of camp.● All COVID-19 testing is to be completed and reported in accordance with Guidance for Industry-Initiated COVID-19 Testing.
Staff and Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Operators must ensure staff are properly trained in regards to policies regarding physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfecting, and any other updated policies or procedures related to preventing transmission of COVID-19.● Staff must have access to hand sanitizer, face masks, and other workplace requirements.
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Food service providers are required to follow the Guidance for Food Services and Sales.● If food must be handed out, a person or persons must be designated to do this. The person handing out food should follow good hand hygiene practices.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Utensils should be used to serve food items.● Campers may bring their own food and beverages, if the camp policies permit this.● Food and beverages should not be shared between campers, unless they are from the same household. Ensure participants label personal belongings.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The driver should be provided with a protective zone, which may include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2 metre physical distance; physical barrier; or non-medical mask.● Campers should be assigned seats and a record of this seating plan should be kept.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Campers who live in the same household should be seated together.

STAGE 2: GUIDANCE FOR CAMPS



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- Camp operators should develop procedures for loading, unloading and transfers that support physical distancing of 2 metres between all persons (except household members) when possible.
 - If a camper becomes symptomatic during the trip, a non-medical mask should be made available. The driver will contact the camp to make the appropriate arrangements for the camper to be picked up (see screening and response plan above).
 - Vehicle cleaning and records
 - Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfection of applicable high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, child seats, window areas, rails, steering wheel, mobile devices and GPS prior to each run
 - It is recommended that vehicle cleaning logs be kept.
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This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed.

Last Revised: June 2021.

