

# Guidance and Consideration for Children's Spring Break Camps during COVID-19 Pandemic



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Prepared by BC Recreation and Parks Association

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## INTRODUCTION

Municipalities host spring break camps that service thousands of children each year through British Columbia. As we approach spring break, the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) has developed the following guidance and considerations for municipal spring break camps. This guidance is based on the [BCRPA Guidance and Consideration for Children's Day Camps](#) from summer 2020 with updated information from the Provincial Health Officer's latest orders of February 5, 2021.

## GOAL OF THE DOCUMENT

- To communicate a common approach that can be applied to the public recreation sector while meeting the broader guidelines and directives as set out by the BC Provincial Health Officer (PHO).

For those wishing to develop procedure manuals for their spring break camps please refer to the [BCRPA Guidance and Consideration for Children's Day Camps](#).

## PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

The following restrictions and permissible activities are compiled from the [Province-wide restrictions](#) from the BC Provincial Government and the [Order of the Provincial Health Officer](#) dated February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

All spring break camp hosts should continue to stay informed for any changes to public health advice.

### Permissible activities

Structured extracurricular activities and programs, which would include spring break camps, for children or youth 21 years of age and younger can continue to operate with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. They must be supervised by an adult. These include:

- Education programs
- Music
- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- Outdoor exercise
- Recreational programs

Structured extracurricular activities and programs for children or youth are subject to a 50-person limit.

Public pools and public skating rinks, are allowed to continue to operate with a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

## Required Conditions

The following conditions must be met when preparing day camps:

1. There is a COVID-19 safety plan;
2. There is an adult leader;
3. Access to the camp site is controlled;
4. There is sufficient space available to permit the children to maintain a distance of two metres from one another and three metres from adults;
5. Measures are put in place to prevent the congregation of children and families coming into and leaving the day camp site;
6. The site is assessed for areas where children and/or families may congregate, and measures are put in place to avoid congregation in those areas;
7. Physical devices, markers or other methods are used to guide and assist children and families in maintaining a distance of two metres from other children and families;
8. If there are tables provided for the use of children, up to six may be seated at a table and be distanced two metres apart, even if the children reside in the same household;
9. For table arrangements, there must be at least two metres between the backs of the chairs at one table and the backs of the chairs at another table, unless the chairs are separated by a physical barrier;
10. Leaders should maintain a distance of at least three metres between themselves and the children unless there is a physical barrier between them which blocks the transmission of droplets (such as a mask);
11. If there is a self-serve food or drink station,
  - a. Hand washing facilities or alcohol-based sanitizers are within easy reach of the station;
  - b. Signs (written or image-based) reminding children to wash or sanitize their hands before touching self-serve food, drink or other items, and to maintain a two metre distance from others, are posted at the self-serve station; and
  - c. High touch surfaces at the station, and utensils that are used for self-serve, are frequently cleaned and sanitized;
12. Hand sanitation supplies are readily available to all children and leaders;
13. Washroom facilities are available with running water, soap and paper towels for hand washing and drying purposes, or hand sanitation supplies;
14. No person is present as a spectator at a program for children or youth, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a child or youth who is a participant in the program for children or youth;

15. The day camp host must:

- a. collect the first and last names and telephone number, or email address, of every child who attends camp;
- b. retain this information for thirty days, in case there is a need for contact tracing on the part of the medical health officer, in which case the information must be provided to the medical health officer.

## Youth Sports, Indoor and Outdoor

All organized indoor and outdoor sports for people 21 years of age and younger should follow [viaSport's Return to Sport Phase 2 guidance](#) with respect to maintaining physical distance for participants. This means games, tournaments and competitions are temporarily suspended for teams.

- Individual drills and modified training activities can continue;
- Participants maintain a physical distance of three metres from one another and do not engage in handshaking, high fives, hugging or similar behaviour;
- The focus is on activities that have a low risk of COVID-19 virus transmission;
- No person may be present as a spectator at a program for children or youth, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a child or youth who is a participant in the program for children or youth.

## Other Considerations

1. Spend as much time outdoors as possible;
2. Children and leaders should be grouped into camp cohorts who remain together throughout the day and week;
3. Masks for elementary aged children are not required, however leaders should wear masks when they cannot maintain a two metre distance outdoors and three metre distance indoors;
4. Stagger drop-off, pick-up, break and transition times between cohorts;
5. Incorporate individual activities where possible;
6. Parents and caregivers should complete a daily health check on their child before drop-off;
7. Staff should complete a daily health check prior to camp each day;
8. Limit use of frequently-touched items that can't be easily cleaned to those that support student learning and development.

## SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES

[BCRPA Guidance and Consideration for Children's Day Camps](#)

[BCCDC Guidance for summer day camps](#)

[COVID-19 safe schools](#)

[Province-wide restrictions](#)

[Order of the Provincial Health Officer](#)

[viaSport's Return to Sport Phase 2 guidance](#)

[BCCDC Swimming Pools Guidelines](#)