

# VISITOR GUIDE TO CAMPING DURING COVID-19

*Whether camping overnight or visiting for the day, this guide highlights what you 'need-to-know' to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable stay while we continue to respond to COVID-19.*



## BC Parks

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

British Columbia's provincial parks are managed for the enjoyment of all our visitors and for the protection of each park and its values. Whether camping overnight or visiting for the day, this guide highlights what you 'need-to-know' to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable stay while we continue to respond to COVID-19.

BC Parks has put protocols in place, including enhanced cleaning measures, to ensure campers and day-use visitors remain safe while getting back outdoors. Keeping our parks and campgrounds safe is a collective responsibility. As we embark on a new camping season, BC Parks staff and park operators will be relying on the cooperation of visitors to adhere to physical distancing and posted guidelines while visiting parks and campgrounds.

Park operators and park rangers are responsible for ensuring day-use visitors and campers comply with all Park Act regulations, BC Parks policies, and the orders of the Provincial Health Officer. They are trained to help resolve issues and work with enforcement authorities, as necessary, to ensure the safety of everyone.

## TOGETHER WE CAN STAY SAFE AND KEEP PARKS OPEN.

The following **Visitor Standard of Conduct** outlines BC Parks' expectations of campers this summer, as we work to keep our visitors, staff, park operators, and adjacent communities safe and our parks open.

We need your help and cooperation to keep these beautiful places open for everyone to enjoy.

**For more information visit:** <http://bcparks.ca/covid-19/>

## VISITOR STANDARD OF CONDUCT

We ask that people follow the expectations outlined below while visiting British Columbia's provincial parks to ensure that we can keep our parks open.

Failure to comply with these regulations and policies may result in enforcement actions, such as fines and/or eviction from the park.



## 1. FEELING SICK? PARK VISITS CAN WAIT.

Stay home if you have:

- A cough, fever or any symptoms of illness,
- Recently returned from travel outside of Canada; or
- Been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

**Follow the orders of the Provincial Health Officer and for more information visit:**

[www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19)

## 2. STAY LOCAL.

While we all look forward to future road trips and exploring new parks, for now, we ask that you stay close to home, avoid non-essential travel, and enjoy where you live.

This is not the time for long distance travel for recreational purposes.

Many of our parks and protected areas are adjacent to rural, remote, and First Nations communities. As you plan your summer, please be mindful that these smaller communities may not be able to manage increases in out of town visitors.

You may also find amenities such as groceries and gas unavailable. As you head out for your camping trip, make adjustments:

- Stock up on groceries close to home – bring a cooler and extra ice to help you make the journey.
- Refuel your vehicle before you leave home and sanitize your hands after refueling.

## 3. STAY SAFE.

As we get outside, remember to play it safe this summer.

Refer to posted signs and follow the direction of park operators and staff – they are as invested in your safety as you are.

Take extra caution in day use areas and on hiking trails to reduce risk and avoid injury. Recreate within your skill level so as not to put others in emergency response, search and rescue and our health care system at risk.

## 4. LIMIT TOUCH POINTS AND KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.

Keep yourself and others safe by limiting touch points.

- Be mindful of high-touch areas and objects within the park (e.g., hand rails, garbage lids, wayfinding maps).
- Sanitize your hands after coming into contact with common areas or avoid touching altogether.

Although we've moved outside, physical distancing still has a role to play in safe outdoor recreation. Practice physical distancing in campgrounds and day use areas by:

- Lining up two metres apart at washrooms, shower buildings and taps.
- Maintaining two metres of distance when setting up at the beach.
- Visiting day use areas of the park early in the morning or later in the day to avoid crowds.
- Modeling good trail etiquette by maintaining distance between other hikers and making room for others to pass.

## 5. KEEP NATURE SERENE AND YOUR HANDS CLEAN.

Clean hands help keep everyone safe. Wash your hands frequently, especially when coming and going from your campsite.

Follow these hand-hygiene guidelines:

- Lather up with soap and warm water.
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing "happy birthday" twice).
- Use an alcohol-based sanitizer when hand washing is not an option.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue rather than your hands. Immediately dispose of used tissues in a waste bin or bag and clean your hands right away.



## 6. USE COMMON SENSE IN COMMON AREAS

Limit your time in common areas and be considerate of other campers. When it comes to washrooms and shower facilities, please work together to adhere to the posted limit for the building.

When inside, give each other a lot of space – think the length of a hockey stick or a pool noodle.

We all know how much children enjoy playing in groups and on playgrounds. Parents are expected to help their children navigate physical distancing guidelines and adhere to posted signs and facility closures.

Younger children should be accompanied by a parent or adult when using common facilities and areas. Bring along sanitizing wipes and any other supplies you may need to keep tiny hands safe.

Enhanced cleaning measures are in place for common facilities, but we can all do our part to keep our common areas and frequently used spaces clean.

Above all, we ask that you practice patience, kindness and consideration as campers, park operators, and BC Parks staff all navigate this new way of camping, together.

### RESPECTFUL BATHROOM ETIQUETTE

We can all do our part to help keep our washrooms and outhouses clean and accessible for everyone.

- When nature calls, please only use the washroom buildings or outhouses or your personal RV or portable toilet.
- Going to the bathroom in the area surrounding your campsite is not permitted and can have detrimental effects on the environment, water quality, wildlife, and other campers.
- Bring disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer with you to the washroom or outhouse in case supplies are running low – clean surfaces before and after you go!
- Please remember outhouses are toilets not garbage cans – if you wouldn't put it in your toilet at home, don't put it in the outhouse.

## 7. SET UP YOUR CAMPSITE FOR SUCCESS.

Pack the essentials, including waste bags, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, plain soap, a wash basin, tissues, and flip flops for the shower. Extra items to consider may include gloves for disposing of waste in common receptacles, or non-medical grade masks for use in common areas, depending on your comfort level.

When you arrive, explore your new space by reviewing campsite boundaries with your children. Keep all camping equipment, tents, vehicles, RVs only on your campsite pad.

Maintain your social “bubble” by keeping two metres of distance from those not in your camping party whenever possible. Keep your socializing safe by limiting visitors to your campsite. Please note, in support of public health recommendations of social distancing, the maximum occupancy for a campsite is 8 people at any given time, including daytime visitors and overnight campers.

Up your hand-hygiene game by setting up a hand washing station at your campsite. Bring along a large water cooler with a faucet or spout and eco-friendly hand soap. Set this up on the edge of your campsite’s picnic table for easy access.

Make a habit of washing or sanitizing your hands:

- When entering or exiting your campsite,
- Before and after eating,
- Before preparing or handling food,
- Before handling clean or dirty dishes.

Campsite picnic tables are high touch surfaces and should be cleaned before and after each use.

We can all do our part to help keep campgrounds clean. As always, we ask that campers keep the campsite clean during their stay and leave no trace upon departure.

Dispose of waste and recyclables in appropriate receptacles and if facilities do not exist (e.g., in some backcountry or marine sites), pack your waste with you and dispose of it when you get home.

**Remember: Wildlife attractants such as food and drinks must be securely stored to prevent human-wildlife interaction.**

As always, domestic pets are welcome in the campground but must always be kept on a leash and in control. Ensure that leash length is appropriate to prevent them from coming into contact with campers outside of your camping party. Please be considerate of other campers and pick up after your pet and dispose of their waste in the garbage.

### SAFE CAMPING CHECKLIST:

#### Camping Essentials:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand soap          | <input type="checkbox"/> Wash basin   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer     | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfectant wipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disposable gloves  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tissues      |

#### Camping extras to consider bringing:

- Face mask
- Flip flops to wear in the shower facilities

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please follow the in-park signs and posted information for additional information and park-specific guidelines.

**For more information, visit us online at: [www.bcparks.ca](http://www.bcparks.ca)**

