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COVID-19 Safety Procedures for CRD Regional Parks School Programs

CRD Regional Parks has developed COVID-19 Safety Procedures to ensure the health and safety of program participants and CRD staff. These safety procedures have been developed in alignment with the Province of BC's COVID-19 Orders and Notices, WorkSafeBC industry information, and the CRD Corporate Safety Program.

These COVID-19 Safety Procedures are effective immediately and will remain in effect until the Province of BC is able to enter into Phase 4 of its BC Restart Plan or when Provincial Health Orders dictate that safety procedures must change.

Purpose: To provide guidelines for minimizing the risk of COVID-19 exposure for CRD staff and all participants attending a school program lead by CRD Regional Parks staff. Participants include students, teachers and any adults providing supervision.

Procedures:

1. Associated Policies and Guidelines

All school programs will be conducted while following existing health and safety policies and procedures develop by CRD or public health experts. Staff will receive additional and ongoing training on these procedures as necessary.

Associated policies and procedures include:

- CRD COVID-19 Hazard Exposure Control Plan
- CRD Safe Work Procedure: Working with the Public During a Pandemic
- CRD Safe Work Procedure: Vehicle Distancing Procedure
- WorkSafeBC Guidelines for Physical Distancing at Work
- Compliance and de-escalation communication technique of Verbal Judo
- WorkSafeBC Covid-19 Safety Plan specific to school programs
- Daily health screening and recording for staff (CRD Entry Check Procedure)
- CRD Use and Care Instructions for Face Covering

2. Personal Health Check

As required by WorkSafe BC, at the start of each workday, CRD staff complete a personal health check and screen themselves for any symptoms of COVID-19 or declare any other reasons that they may be required to self-isolate or not attend work. Daily health checks are tracked and recorded by each employee's manager.

Program participants are asked to follow their school district's procedure for daily health checks and only participate in a school program if they have completed a daily assessment.

3. Physical distancing

Public health officials advise people maintain 2 meters of physical distance between themselves and others whenever possible to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Physical distancing will be maintained on school programs between staff and all participants.

The following actions will be taken in order to ensure physical distancing is maintained:

- Programs will take place entirely outdoors
- Programs will take place in locations with ample space
- Staff will be aware of trail traffic flow and avoid stopping in any locations that could create pinch points

- Groups sizes will be small with a maximum of 13 students per guide
- Staff will remind participants of physical distancing expectations at the start of the program and throughout the program as necessary.
- Participants will be expected to follow Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings in regards to physical distancing within their learning group.

4. Enhanced cleaning procedures for props and materials

- There will be no props or materials passed between participants
- Any props or materials used by the park naturalist will be cleaned at the end of the program using a bleach and water solution.
- Any difficult to wash props such as taxidermy, bird's nests etc. will be placed in plexiglass cases and be cleaned between programs.
- If a prop is used by a participant (eg. small bowl for observing beach creatures) it will be washed with soap and water and left for 72 hours between uses.

5. First Aid

While CRD park naturalists make every effort to keep participants safe, and do carry a first aid kit, there will not be a certified first aid attendant leading the program. Teachers should continue to follow the first aid procedures in keeping with their school district's policies.

6. Contact tracing

All school programs require pre-registration. CRD staff will maintain a record of contact information for teachers who registered for programs. These records will be made available to health officials should contact tracing be necessary.

7. Washroom access and hand hygiene

Hand Hygiene is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Hand washing with soap and water or applying hand sanitizer are effective ways to clean hands.

- All programs will take place in locations where washroom facilities are available for participants
- Washrooms are cleaned regularly and equipped with either soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- Staff will wash or sanitize their hands before and after programs and participants will be encouraged to do the same.

8. Face coverings

While face coverings are mandatory in all public indoor spaces they are not mandatory outdoors provided physical distancing can be maintained.

- Park naturalists have been supplied with non-medical face coverings and may choose to wear them while delivering programs outdoors.
- Participants may choose to wear face coverings

9. Monitoring and updating of Safety Procedures

- Staff will continue to monitor and assess all program activity and adjust the safety procedures as necessary in consultation with CRD health and safety advisors.
- School program participants are encouraged to provide input on the safety procedures.

10. Program Cancellations:



- In the event that participants need to cancel or postponed a program due to COVID-19 related concerns, there will be no cancellation fee retained. The program fee will either be refunded or the program will be re-scheduled, depending on availability of alternate time slots.

Further information

- For updates on the CRD response to COVID-19 visit: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/covid>
- Please direct questions or feedback regarding CRD Regional Parks school programs to:

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References

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<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation> Accessed
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