

BCMC Covid Phase 3 Operations

BC is now in Phase 3 of [BC's Restart Plan](#). The BC Mountaineering Club (BCMC) is expanding operations in a modified way that follows government guidelines. The BCMC will continue to uphold all health and safety measures from the provincial government.

While most of our core activities have resumed, it will continue to be in a new way. We are in a “new normal” and the BCMC’s operations will reflect that for quite some time. We ask members to adjust their expectations and activities accordingly to align with our shared “new normal”. While we are keen to get out there, we must do it in a responsible way. Together, let’s lead by example in both our outdoor community and in our BC communities.

The following requirements and guidelines are in effect as of July 10, 2020 until further notice for all trips and activities on the BCMC schedule. The BCMC expects all paid and guest members who participate in BCMC trips to comply with the following requirements and guidelines:

Operating Parameters

- No trips in or through closed parks, areas or communities
- No out of province travel is recommended until further notice
- No trips to indigenous communities, territories and lands that are not open to visitors - do not enter unless invited to do so by indigenous peoples
- Follow the guidelines set out by BC health organizations and the BC government
- For cabin operation policies please refer to the Cabin Policy Guide

Permitted Activities

All regular club activities are now permitted as long as they follow the guidelines set out in this document and are conducted in a safe manner that minimizes risks to participants and others. Help protect SAR members and reduce the risk of burdening hospitals with conservative choices, decisions and actions.

Trip Guidelines

- Maximum group size of 10 people, including organizer (exception: online events)
- Factor in how much parking is available at the destination and limit group size accordingly to accommodate reduced carpooling
- No carpooling with non-household members or people not within exclusive “social bubbles”
- Apart from climbing gear and trail work tools, no sharing of gear or supplies with non-household members or people outside your exclusive “social bubble” (i.e. tents, food)
- Mitigate the risks of using shared ropes and / or touching any other common surfaces by practicing safe hygiene before and after touching said surface or surfaces
- For indoor climbing be aware of and follow the gym’s Covid policies for booking and climbing
- When using any commercial transportation operators, follow their Covid policies

- Comply with any travel restrictions from government and any community announcements

Participant Requirements (Organizers and Attendees)

- Must be self-reliant on trips
- No touching! No handshakes, hugs, fist or elbow bumping (share smiles, waves and hang tens)
- Practice safe hygiene when sharing ropes and touching common surfaces
- Maintain at least 2m distance from trip participants and other trail users at all times, with exception to same household members and groups of exclusive non-household members (exclusive “social bubbles”)
- Must pass all health and safety requirements to participate (reference the health and safety requirements below)
- Any attending non-members must have a current [quest membership](#) with a completed digital online waiver
- Have an exit plan in the event that you or someone becomes ill during the trip or event
- If you become ill during or up to 14 days after a trip / event you must notify the BCMC at exec@bcmc.ca and [follow the BC CDC's instructions](#).

Health and Safety Requirements

- All trip Organizers and attendees must answer and pass the health and safety questions (outlined below) to be able to participate in a BCMC course or event
- If you answer “yes” to any of the health and safety questions, you cannot organize or attend the trip / event
- The trip / event Organizer has the right to decline sign up / attendance requests
- Keep it clean! Bring your own hand sanitizer and use it; avoid touching your face
- Consider wearing a mask to provide additional protection to others (encouraged but optional as per the BC Centre for Disease Control) and sneeze / cough into your elbow

Health and Safety Questions

Organizers and attendees must answer all of the questions in the [BC Covid-19 Symptom Self Assessment Tool questionnaire](#) when posting or signing up for any activity on the BCMC calendar (with the exception of online events).

Organizers are to include a link to the [BC Covid-19 Symptom Self Assessment Tool questionnaire](#) in the participant screening questions for the trip / event posting. Organizers must also complete the questionnaire, and have answered no to all of the questions at the time of posting.

Those signing up for a trip / event must provide their self assessment questionnaire results via responding to the participant screening questions.

Pre-Departure Organizer Health and Safety Requirements

- A health and safety check must be done again on the day of the trip / event prior to departure
- Organizers and attendees must confirm with their group that they have completed and answered “no” to all questions in the [BC Covid-19 Symptom Self Assessment tool questionnaire](#). The questionnaire answers are to be posted within the trip / event planning forum

General Guidelines

- Tone it down! Do trips of lesser difficulty than you normally would to help reduce the risk of mishaps, to help protect SAR members, and to not risk burdening hospitals
- Choose trails, routes and destinations that can easily accommodate physical distancing
- Consider doing trips closer to home to help keep smaller communities safe
- Minimize the impacts of travel as much as possible: be self-contained in terms of supplies - avoid stopping at facilities outside your own community for gas, food, or bathroom breaks
- Be mindful of how much (or little) parking is available at the chosen trailhead, and give consideration that there may be less carpooling than normal taking place with your group and other parties
- Consider local trips that can be reached by walking, biking or transit
- Arrange logistics ahead of the trip / event on the online trip planning forum to minimize congregation time at the meeting spot
- Be mindful that public restrooms and other facilities may not be available at trailheads; bring blue / wag bags as a backup
- Practise ‘Leave No Trace’ and pack out what you bring in
- Allow for extra time throughout your trip / event, especially during snack and lunch breaks, for thorough safe hygiene practices

These requirements and guidelines are based upon BC provincial guidelines, and are subject to change as updates from BC health organizations and the BC government become available. For reference please consult the below government guidelines and other resource links listed below.

Resources

- [BC Government Restart Plan](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations](#)
- [BC Parks COVID-19 response information](#)
- [BC Search and Rescue Association COVID-19 safety recommendations](#)
- [Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Covid-19 response information](#)