

BCMC Covid Phase 2 Operations

In line with [BC's Restart Plan](#) guidelines, the BC Mountaineering Club (BCMC) will recommence limited operations as of May 15, 2020. The following requirements for all trips and activities on the BCMC schedule are in effect as of May 15, 2020 and are applicable to all paid and guest BCMC members. 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.

The BCMC will likely not resume full “normal operations” for quite some time. While we hope to gradually increase BCMC operations as updated provincial guidelines permit, we strongly recommend all members adjust their expectations and activities accordingly. Now is the time to lead by example, not just with regard to our outdoor activities, but generally.

The BCMC expects all paid and guest members who participate in BCMC trips to comply with the requirements and guidelines below. For reference please consult [BC's Restart Plan](#) guidelines, as well as other government requirements and resource links at the end of this document.

Operating Parameters

- Cabins remain closed
- No trips in or through closed parks, areas or communities
- No cross border travel between Canada and the United States is recommended until further notice
- 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

Permitted Activities

- Hiking - in parks open to the public or other areas close to your community
- Snowshoeing - in parks open to the public or other areas close to your community
- Backcountry skiing - in parks open to the public or other areas close to your community (exception: no glacier skiing, both to avoid shared gear and to reduce potential SAR impact)
- Conditioning hikes or runs - in parks open to the public or other areas close to your community
- Outdoor courses not involving shared gear or the touching of common surfaces
- Skills practice sessions at local outdoor or spacious indoor locations allowing for social distancing that do not involve shared gear or the touching of common surfaces
- Online courses and events

All BCMC activities must be conducted in a safe manner, minimizing risks to participants and others.

Trip Requirements

- Maximum group size of 6 people, including organizer (exception: online events)
- No carpooling with non-household members or people not within exclusive “social bubbles”
- No trips or activities requiring shared gear (i.e. ropes)
- No trips or activities involving the touching of common surfaces (i.e. ladders, ropes, scrambles)
- No sharing of gear or supplies with non-household members or people outside your exclusive “social bubble” (including food and serving utensils)
- 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)
- 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
- Wear a mask when appropriate 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 / course planning forum
- Organizers are to remind everyone that there is to be no carpooling with the exception of members of the same household, or people within exclusive “social bubbles”

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
- Choose trips / locations close to home to help keep smaller communities safe
- 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 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
- Minimize the impacts of travel as much as possible: be self-contained in terms of supplies - don't stop at facilities outside your own community for gas, food, or bathroom breaks
- 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 hygiene practices

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](#)