



COVID19 Safe Operating Procedure

May 2022

DESCRIPTION

In order to minimize exposure to COVID19 the Columbia Mountains Institute (CMI) suspended all in-person indoor programming for spring 2020, summer 2020 and fall 2020. Come fall 2020, CMI hosted small field-based (outdoor) learning and networking opportunities that upheld provincial [Work Safe](#) and [CDC guidelines](#). Moving forward from this point CMI continues to follow the [Province of BC's health guidelines and public health orders](#). The following is our COVID19 Operating Procedure:

PRESCREENING

If anyone is experiencing any cold or flu symptoms, they must not attend CMI events in-person. This applies to CMI staff, instructors, volunteers, students and participants of any kind. All participants will be asked to use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) prior to attending CMI events in-person to determine if they are experiencing COVID19 symptoms.

VACCINATION

As of April 8 2022, [proof of vaccination is no longer required](#), under the public health order in British Columbia to access businesses, events and services. At CMI this means that we will no longer be checking vaccination status of event participants.

Please note that the [Government of Canada still requires travellers over the age of 12 to be fully vaccinated](#) and show proof of vaccination to use federally regulated methods of travel. For out-of-province participants, we ask for you to be familiar with and understand BC's most recent guidelines and public health orders.

PPE Recommended

All instructors, staff and students can come prepared with the following PPE's for protection from COVID-19 infection:

- Cloth mask capable of covering the entire mouth and nasal passages in accordance with the Province of BC's Public Health Orders on masking requirements (if applicable at the time);

- Hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol content (CMI will have this available);
- Disinfecting wipes OR disinfecting spray and paper towel (CMI will have this available).

PROCEDURES

- Group size will not exceed that which is advised by the Province of BC's Public Health guidelines.
- Individuals are encouraged to maintain 2m physical distance.
- We do not encourage sharing any equipment that touches a persons' face (ie., binoculars).
- Everyone must use hand sanitizer with at least 60 % alcohol content for each of the circumstances noted below. Alternatively, if a clean water source is available, soap and water can be used for cleaning instead of hand sanitizer.
 - Upon arrival for the day/session;
 - Prior to eating or drinking;
 - After washroom breaks;
 - At the end of breaks;
 - Immediately prior to and after use of any piece of shared equipment (See SWP Equipment Handling for details);
 - Immediately prior to entering and exiting a vehicle with shared occupancy.
- Disinfecting wipe OR disinfecting spray and paper towel must be used to clean the following surfaces:
 - Any piece of equipment immediately before handing off for shared use;
 - Any piece of equipment when its use is complete and is to be returned; and
 - All high touch surfaces on shared occupancy vehicles (excluding vehicles occupied only by members of the same household).
- Vehicle Use Procedures:
 - While CMI usually encourages carpooling to field sites for environmental and other reasons, during the COVID19 pandemic carpooling should be approached with caution and due diligence. We recommend disinfecting wipes or disinfecting spray and paper towel to clean all of high touch surfaces before and after use.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Note that required procedures detailing distancing requirements and food and utensil sharing do not apply between people within the same household.

This is a working document. Procedures may be changed in accordance with altered COVID 19 risk levels as identified by the Provincial Health Authority.