



## **Wilderness Adventurers of Ontario Inc.**

### **COVID-19 RESPONSE POLICY**

**Last Revised: Mar 20, 2022**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The declaration of COVID-19 as a worldwide pandemic has required many shifts in what were considered normal activities, and the Wilderness Adventurers Club has had to create some new protocols to accommodate the new reality. As knowledge about the spread and impacts of this new disease has developed, we have worked to adapt our policies to reflect both current understanding, and current government/public health guidelines.

The WA Board of Directors and Executives has created these protocols with consideration of personal risks, risks for the greater community, public health pronouncements and recommendations from authorities.

**Comfort levels are personal and different for every person. Everyone is encouraged to respect each other's comfort level.**

**NOTE: Current Health Authority guidelines supersede this document if there is a discrepancy. Please check with Provincial Guidelines and with the guidelines of the Public Health Unit you are travelling in.**

Wilderness Adventurers of Ontario has decided that all members wishing to participate in any in-person activities of the club, either outdoor or indoor, must be fully vaccinated or hold an exemption supported by the Government of Ontario as of October 22nd, 2021. Members must update their personal profile in the club website with a declaration of their vaccination status before they are able to attend any trip or event as of October 22nd, 2021.

All activities must follow local and provincial health guidelines including allowed group size (if mandated), appropriate distancing (if mandated), wearing of masks (where mandated), and the use of a self-assessment questionnaire.

## **Protocol for all outdoor trips (including day trips and overnight trips) and events**

All outdoor trips and events must follow current Ontario restrictions as well as any additional restrictions placed by the Public Health Unit through which participants are travelling.

- ☐ All members attending the trip, including the trip organizer, must screen negative for potential COVID19 exposure/symptoms using the [Ontario Self-Assessment tool](#) on the day of the trip.
- ☐ Trip numbers cannot exceed the numbers allowed by the Province of Ontario at the time that the trip takes place.
- ☐ Trip organizers must run a trip report to confirm that potential participants are fully vaccinated before accepting them on the trip
- ☐ Members must observe social distancing as mandated by the province for the activated. Distancing of 2 m continues to be a recommended practice.
- ☐ Appropriate hand hygiene is followed.
- ☐ If a trip or event participant develops symptoms of COVID within 10 days after the trip or event, that participant should take the [self-assessment](#) and must inform the trip organizer immediately if the assessment recommends self-isolation. Other participants will be informed and advised to use the [Self-Assessment tool](#) and follow its recommendations.

## **Protocol for trips and events involving indoor accommodation or eating**

For members who are organizing trips or events with an indoor component, the organizer must prioritize personal safety and the safety of others in the planning of the indoor components of the trip/event. Different individuals will have different levels of comfort with being indoors with those outside of their household and it is important that all members on a trip respect these differences. Accordingly, it is important that the trip organizer clearly communicate their plans for communal indoor activities so that members can decide if the trip plans fall within their comfort zone.

All indoor trips and events must follow current Ontario restrictions as well as any additional restrictions placed by the Public Health Unit through which they are travelling.

- ☐ All members attending the trip, including the trip organizer, must screen negative for potential COVID19 exposure/symptoms using the [Ontario Self-Assessment tool](#) on the day of the trip.
- ☐ Trip organizers must run a trip report to confirm that potential participants are fully vaccinated before accepting them on the trip
- ☐ Members must observe social distancing as mandated by the province for the activated. Distancing of 2 m continues to be a recommended practice.
- ☐ Room sharing between individuals not in the same household should only occur with the agreement of those individuals. Organizers may need to plan for those wanting individual rooms.
- ☐ Disinfecting of high-touch surfaces should be done routinely. The trip organizer should ensure that disinfectant and paper towels are readily available in all rooms with high-touch surfaces, such as kitchens and bathrooms. Participants should be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands often, especially before and after touching communal surfaces.
- ☐ Participants should be encouraged to bring their own personal items, such as hand towels, to reduce the possible spread of infection.
- ☐ Kitchen use should be limited to as few people as possible at one time.
- ☐ When communal meals are appropriate, these should be prepared by a small number of people who are following appropriate infection-reducing strategies (frequent hand washing, potentially wearing masks while preparing food, and serving food rather than having members serve themselves).
- ☐ Dishes should be washed with disinfectant (such as bleach) in the rinse water; dishes should be left to air dry rather than dried with a communal tea towel.
- ☐ Members are encouraged to wear masks in communal areas.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support. Stay safe!

WA 2022 Executive