



Wilderness Adventurers of Ontario Inc.

COVID-19 RESPONSE POLICY

Last Revised: Sep 15, 2020

BACKGROUND

As a result of a worldwide pandemic of the COVID-19 virus and subsequent lock-down and restrictions imposed by all levels of government, the Executive of Wilderness Adventurers made the decision on April 1, 2020 to cancel all future WA trips and events until further notice.

While it is hard to predict when all trip restriction would be lifted, it was decided by the club executive that lifting of restrictions will be a period of time after Ontario lifts its State of Emergency restrictions on outdoor recreational amenities, after Ontario Provincial Parks are re-opened, and after sufficient time has passed so that our travel through smaller remote communities and in the back country does not put an unreasonable load on health care workers and emergency services in these areas.

The WA club will be taking a very cautionary approach to expanding club activities. The club executive supports a slow and steady unfolding of changes and encourage members and others to be patient. The WA Board of Directors and Executives will make further decisions with consideration of personal risks, risks for the greater community, public health pronouncements and recommendations from authorities.

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS (Please note that plans are fluid and subject to change at any time.)

As of June 29, HIKING, CYCLING, and KAYAKING DAY TRIPS, and OVERNIGHT CAMPING TRIPS are again being sanctioned by the club.

All activities must follow local and provincial health guidelines including allowed group size, social distancing, and the use of a self-assessment questionnaire.

Beginning June 29, 2020, HIKING, CYCLING, and KAYAKING DAY TRIPS and OVERNIGHT CAMPING trips can be organized as club events as long as they follow current Provincial guidelines, including:

- No more than 10 people may be on the trip.

Note: Effective Friday, June 12, 2020 at 12:01 am, the limit on social gatherings is being increased by the province from 5 to 10 across the entire province. Check Provincial Guidelines for currently allowed gathering size.

Ontario Parks COVID-19 information is available at: <https://www.ontarioparks.com/covid19>

- Members must always observe physical distancing of 2 metres.
- Carpooling is not recommended and should be avoided.
- Car shuttles that bring non-family members together in close quarters are not allowed.
- Food and eating utensils are not shared.
- Appropriate hand hygiene is followed.
- All members attending the trip, including the trip organizer, will be screened for potential COVID19 exposure.
[Download and print the most up-to-date questionnaire.](#)
- Upon completing a WA trip or event during a cautionary period participants should inform the trip or event organizer if they develop any symptoms or have a sense of being un-well for a period of two weeks AFTER the trip or event has ended.

Protocol for trips involving indoor accommodation

Wilderness Adventurers is a club which promotes trips in all seasons. As a result, many trips will have a component requiring indoor accommodation. The following policy is intended to complement policies for trips which are wholly outdoors.

For members who are organizing trips with an indoor component, the club executive requires that the organizer prioritize personal safety and the safety of others in the planning of the indoor components of the trip. Different individuals will have different levels of comfort with being indoors with those outside of their personal social bubble 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 are able to decide if the trip plans fall within their comfort zone.

Based on the best information available and the policies that are currently being promoted by the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, Wilderness Adventurers will require trips with an indoor component to use the following guidelines:

- Members attending any club trip must complete the Government of Ontario [COVID-19 self-assessment](#) the day of the trip. A member with any of the listed symptoms must not attend the trip.
- Indoor accommodations should allow for appropriate physical distancing of 2 m. This will generally mean that cottages, cabins or other accommodations cannot be booked to full capacity. The trip organizer should determine the appropriate number of members for the trip with the ability to maintain physical distancing in mind.
- Room sharing between individuals not in the same social bubble is not recommended and should be avoided.
- Disinfecting of high-touch surfaces must be done routinely (after each use). 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.
- All members should be prepared 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 and masks should be worn by those sharing the space who are not in the same bubble.
- When communal meals are appropriate, these should be prepared by one or two people who are following appropriate infection-reducing strategies (frequent hand washing, mask wearing while preparing food, serving food rather than having members serve themselves).
- Dishes should be washed by the individual who has used them, with disinfectant (such as bleach) in the rinse water; dishes should be left to air dry rather than dried with a communal tea towel.
- Trips should not feature close-contact and high-touch activities such as card-playing or board games.
- Members are encouraged to wear masks in communal areas.

We believe that the use of these guidelines finds the balance between the protection/safety of our members and the necessity of gathering inside in colder weather.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support. Stay safe!
WA 2020 Executive