

April 22, 2020

Dear Outdoor Recreation Facility Operators

Re: Operating outdoor recreation facilities in the Vancouver Coastal Health region during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Provincial Health Officer has not issued any orders requiring the closure of outdoor recreation facilities such as parks, dog parks, skate parks, playgrounds, picnic areas, walking, running and cycling trails, beaches, piers, boat launches, athletics fields, outdoor exercise equipment, tennis and basketball courts and golf courses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vancouver Coastal Health believes that the risk of COVID-19 transmission in these environments is low and that it is possible to safely operate these facilities at this time.

Operators of outdoor recreation facilities must comply with applicable Provincial Health Officer orders meaning that they must not operate food or beverage services except for take-out or delivery service, they must not offer personal services and must not host mass gatherings involving more than 50 people (but could have more than 50 people on site if social distancing remains possible given the size of the facility).

Participants should be able to follow the Provincial Health Officer's social distancing recommendations and keep themselves 2 metres apart from other participants while using the facility. Operators should ensure that handwashing, toilet and shower facilities, if available, are open. Operators should follow routine cleaning practices with enhanced cleaning of high-touch surfaces or shared equipment.

There may be additional measures related to the type of facility that operators can implement to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 such as limiting the number of participants or modifying hours of operation.

Vancouver Coastal Health COVID-19 resources for community partners can be found here: www.sneezesdiseases.com/covid-19-community-resources

For advice regarding specific facilities please contact an Environmental Health Officer at ehvc@vch.ca.

Sincerely,



Mark Lysyshyn MD MPH FRCPC
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Vancouver Coastal Health