

COC's COVID-19 Policy

Introduction

Since the pandemic began, one thing we've learned about COVID-19 is that outside seems to be the safer way for people to gather. Additionally, Vitamin D, which your body produces when you're out in the sun, is indicated for having a better outcome with the virus if you are infected.

That being said, Calgary needs the Calgary Outdoor Club now more than ever. We have an opportunity to bring people together in a safe manner, facilitating the creation of community, connections and friendships.

Our number one priority for offering events in a COVID-world is safety. We want to enrich people's lives, not cause harm. To that end, we offer three levels of COVID-19 safety measures on our events:

- 1) The Government of Alberta sets restrictions and guidelines for the province;
- 2) The COC may set additional restrictions and guidelines for events, which build on top of the provincial restrictions and guidelines;
- 3) An event coordinator may set additional restrictions and guidelines for their events, which build on top of the COC restrictions and guidelines.



This policy document discusses:

- 1) The Rights and Obligations of all parties involved in Calgary Outdoor Club events (the club itself, the coordinator, and the attendee)
- 2) The Calgary Outdoor Club Guidelines and Restrictions (above and beyond the GoA guidelines and restrictions)
 - a. For Event Coordinators
 - b. For Attendees
- 3) Dealing with an Incident (Process for Event Coordinators)

For current information about the Government of Alberta's guidelines and restrictions, see:

- 1) [Enhanced Public Health Measures](#)
- 2) [Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation](#)
- 3) [Physical Distancing CMOH order 26-2020](#)
- 4) [All Guidance Documents](#)

Rights and Obligations

Party	Rights	Obligations
Calgary Outdoor Club	<p>has the right to define and enforce restrictions and guidelines for safe participation in club events</p> <p>has the right to suspend or revoke club membership for non-compliance with the restrictions and guidelines on an event</p> <p>has the right to engage the authorities (e.g., police) in the event of malicious non-compliance (e.g., deliberate coughing on any other person)</p>	<p>has the obligation to set reasonable, safe guidelines and restrictions</p> <p>has the obligation to support its event coordinators and assist with incident resolution if required</p>
Event Coordinator	<p>has the right to define and enforce restrictions and guidelines over and above the COC's restrictions and guidelines</p> <p>has the right to expect compliance with all restrictions and guidelines from all attendees</p> <p>has the right to expel any attendee for non-compliance with restrictions and guidelines</p> <p>has the right to ban a non-compliant attendee from attending future events coordinated by themselves</p>	<p>has the obligation to enforce compliance with all guidelines and restrictions for an event, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Expulsion of a non-compliant attendee b) Immediate cancelation of an event in an unsafe situation c) Proceeding with the event without the non-compliant attendee
Attendee	has the right to bring to the attention of the coordinator anyone who is in non-compliance	has the obligation to comply with all guidelines and restrictions for any event attended

Calgary Outdoor Club Guidelines and Restrictions

These guidelines and restrictions build on top of the general COC guidelines and restrictions. For complete information about the general COC guidelines and restrictions, see:

- 1) Coordinator Commandments: <https://www.calgaryoutdoorclub.com/member/portal/manual/commandments.asp>
- 2) Safety Policy: <https://www.calgaryoutdoorclub.com/member/portal/manual/safety.asp>

COVID-19-Specific Guidelines and Restrictions for Event Coordinators

Group Maximums	There are no COC restrictions on group size related to COVID-19 at this time. See Commandment 12 for group size restrictions related to other policies.
Carpooling	As of Mar 1, 2022, the COC allows for the return to normal/open carpools, arranged by club coordinators with no restrictions.

Outdoor Activities	There are no COC restrictions on outdoor activities related to COVID-19 at this time. Our Coordinator Commandments and Safety Policy describe other restrictions.
Indoor Activities	As of Mar 1, 2022, the COC has no restrictions on indoor activities beyond the restrictions and guidelines in place by the province and/or by the venue being visited.
Event Itinerary – COVID-19 Statement	<p>As of Mar 1, 2022, the COC does not require a COVID-19 Statement be included on club events. At the coordinator’s discretion, they may include the following statement (see below for HTML that you can copy/paste).</p> <p>COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS: Participation in this event is conditional upon attendee compliance with the following restrictions: If you have COVID-19, COVID-19-like symptoms, or may have COVID-19 due to a recent exposure, you are expected to withdraw from this event and stay home. We will be more than happy to see you at another event once it is considered safe for you to do so! Failure to comply with this requirement may result in removal from this event and/or future events.</p> <p>See our COVID-19 Policy for complete information.</p> <p>HTML (to copy/paste into your event):</p> <p><p> COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS: Participation in this event is conditional upon attendee compliance with the following restrictions: If you have COVID-19, COVID-19-like symptoms, or may have COVID-19 due to a recent exposure, you are expected to withdraw from this event and stay home. We will be more than happy to see you at another event once it is considered safe for you to do so! Failure to comply with this requirement may result in removal from this event and/or future events.</p> <p>

 See our COVID-19 Policy for complete information.</p> <p></p></p>
Vaccination Status	<p>The COC (and its volunteers) may not require nor collect vaccination status information about event attendees as we do not participate in the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP).</p> <p>The Privacy Commissioner of AB states that "Organizations should note that PIPA prohibits requiring an individual to consent to the collection of personal information beyond what is necessary to provide the product or service (section 7(2))." (https://www.oipc.ab.ca/resources/pandemic-faq-proof-of-vaccination.aspx)</p> <p>Coordinators wishing to include vaccination status in their guidelines and restrictions for attendees may state the vaccination is “preferred”, “strongly recommended”, or any other wording to that effect. They may not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Require or check proof of vaccination; - State in event descriptions that vaccination is “required” (or any equivalent of “required”).
Event Reminder	A reminder of the COVID-19 policy may be included in the e-mail reminder at the coordinator’s discretion.
Event Start	COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions for the event may be verbally repeated at the convoy, and/or event start to be sure all participants are aware of the current restrictions at the coordinator’s discretion.

COVID-19-Specific Guidelines and Restrictions for Attendees

Event Changes/Cancellation	Event may be cancelled or changed on short notice due to changes in government restrictions, or at the coordinators discretion.
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Food/Snacks	There are no COC restrictions or guidelines on food or snacks related to COVID-19 at this time.
Masks	There are no COC restrictions or guidelines on masks related to COVID-19 at this time.
Hand Washing/Sanitizer	Encouraged wherever possible. Bring your own wipes, sanitizer, or “Brent Bottle” (http://stumblingaroundtherockies.blogspot.com/2020/09/pandemic-must-have-brent-bottle.html).
Illness	Please do not sign up if you are experiencing any flu like, cold, or COVID-19 symptoms, or if you have been exposed to a presumptive or confirmed case of COVID-19, even if you’re not showing symptoms.
Event Registration	Please review the COVID-19 requirements in the itinerary section when you register for an event (if it is included).

Dealing with an Incident (Process for Event Coordinators):

- 1) Remember what Spock always said: The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one. The “needs of the many” include YOUR safety needs as well, and you should be prepared to defend those needs against harm from a non-compliant attendee. It’s never fun being the “heavy” with people on an event when you just want to go out and have fun, but unfortunately, that occasionally happens.
- 2) Explain the guidelines and restrictions and request that the participant comply with them for the safe enjoyment of all participants;
- 3) If requesting compliance does not result in a safe resolution:
 - a. If possible, contact (via text or phone) a member of the Covid Committee, or if no Covid Committee member is available, any member of the Executive Committee, who will assist with risk mitigation and safe resolution;
 - b. If it’s not possible to contact an outside party, enlist a trusted event attendee to help mitigate the risk;
 - c. If there’s no safe way to proceed with the event, cancel the event on the spot and advise the attendees to disperse;
 - d. If you can safely proceed with the event, proceed.

Version History

Version	Date	Lead Author	Comments
1.0	2020-07-01	Grant Parkin	Created
2.0	2020-11-08	Rhonda Scheurer	Added Introduction, Rights and Obligations, Dealing with an Incident. Re-organized Guidelines and Restrictions, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modified COVID-19 Questionnaire for event itineraries - Modified “shared equipment” section of Outdoor Activities guidelines
2.1	2020-11-09	Rhonda Scheurer	Standardized the use of “COVID-19” throughout document Updated Questionnaire and added copy/paste HTML
2.2	2020-11-13	Rhonda Scheurer	Added link to GoA’s “Enhanced Public Health Measures”
2.3	2020-11-24	Rhonda Scheurer	Lower allowed maximum from 12 to 6.
2.4	2020-12-02	Rhonda Scheurer	Add Firepit Events to “Outdoor Events” section
2.5	2020-12-08	Rhonda Scheurer	Beefed up the event questionnaire
2.6	2020-12-08	Rhonda Scheurer	Update for provincial shut-down
2.7	2021-01-18	Rhonda Scheurer	Update for club re-open, modify event questionnaire guidelines for timely collection of attendee answers
2.8	2021/02/25	Rhonda Scheurer	Modify allowed maximum to 8 where physical distancing options are known and ample.
2.9	2021/05/28	Rhonda Scheurer	Modify per Alberta’s re-opening plan (Stage 1)
2.10	2021/06/10	Rhonda Scheurer	Update max group size to 15, per Alberta Stage 2
2.11	2021/06/25	Rhonda Scheurer	Update per Alberta Stage 3
2.12	2022/03/12	Rhonda Scheurer	Update per Alberta Mar 1 policy