



# COVID-19 Trail Building & Maintenance Rapid Response Plan and Operating Procedures

*This document is in effect as of April 29, 2022 based on health guidelines in effect on that date, and will be updated as required to reflect current health guidelines.*

## 1 OVERVIEW

The GDTA Trail Building and Maintenance Committee is committed to doing work in 2022. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, however, obligates our work be done under the guidelines of Alberta and BC health policies and in a manner that respects public expectations of conduct. This document outlines the GDTA’s strict expectations to keep trail work participants safe, and fulfil Alberta and BC Health Services requirement for a COVID-19 Rapid Response Plan.

These directions are in addition to the safety, environmental, operating instructions that the GDTA provides for trail building and maintenance trips. Where there is a conflict with these established instructions, the participant shall seek clarification from the Trip Manager.

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## 2 TRIP TYPES AND LIMITATIONS

This year, we are planning at least ten Modified Trail Building & Maintenance Trips with a maximum of 20 people per trip. There are currently no restrictions for the number of people gathering indoors or outdoors. GDT maximum limit per trip is due to logistics and size of camp. Other organized groups may join our work crews to perform trail work provided there is available space for camp facilities and safety officers to support the crew size.

## 3 SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Good public health practices can minimize transmission of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, influenza and common colds. These practices include: proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, and staying home when sick.

### 3.1 Right to refuse work

The right to refuse work, as written in our safety manual, will be honoured. If anyone feels unsafe or is not able to meet the special guidelines outlined in this COVID-19 policy, the Trip Manager or GDTA may ask that person not attend, or send the individual home.

### 3.2 COVID-19 symptoms

There are no screening requirements for volunteers. All volunteers are encouraged to do a self-screening using the following questions before volunteering for a trail building trip. Question #1 should be used for daily screening during the trip.

1.	<b>In the past 10 days, have you experienced any of these symptoms (not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition)?</b>		
	• Fever (greater than 38.0 C)	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Runny nose	YES	NO
2.	<b>Have you tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days?</b>	YES	NO

If a volunteer answers YES to either of the questions the individual is legally required to isolate and will not be allowed to participate on a trip. While at camp, all volunteers are encouraged to observe for any of the symptoms listed above.

If, during a trip, you experience any of these symptoms which are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition, you must immediately notify the Trip Manager and a COVID-19 Self-Assessment Test (see Appendix A) must be completed by the affected individual. Based on the results of the Self-Assessment Test, if there is a possibility that a volunteer has COVID-19 symptoms, the Trip Manager must promptly follow the instructions in the Self-Assessment Test. If the affected individual continues to feel COVID symptoms, the Trip Manager may make arrangements to help the individual leave camp and return home to safely isolate. Good COVID hygiene etiquette should be practiced the entire time.

Once back home, the Trip Coordinator will follow-up with the affected individual. All volunteers should continue to practice safe physical distancing, hygiene protocols to effectively reduce the risk of spreading the virus should they have it. Close contacts of positive cases are not required to quarantine but they should



monitor for symptoms and avoid high risk public settings, and isolate if symptoms develop. See Appendix B for more information.

### 3.3 Emergency

The safety and well-being of first aid attendants and volunteers requiring first aid are essential so in an emergency situation requiring direct intervention, first aid attendants must put on PPE (masks, safety glasses and gloves) before administering first aid. Limit access to the patient and exposure to others during an emergency response. After treatment, sanitize all equipment, PPE and any exposed clothing, and wash your hands thoroughly.

Responders to an emergency (or possible emergency) identified by the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Test (Appendix A) should attempt to maintain safe physical distance at all times. Emergency decisions will be based on first aid principles, the Self-Assessment Test instructions and general common sense.

### 3.4 Safety Officer

The role will be extended to include responsibility for camp sanitation and recommended sanitization. The Safety Officer will oversee the implementation and administration of this document and will assist the Trip Manager in monitoring the adherence to these requirements at site. Upon arrival at site, the Safety Officer will review these requirements with camp participants and will be available to address questions or concerns.

### 3.5 Safety Provisions

The 2-metre physical distancing rule should be applied as a recommended good practice for normal activities. Although masking is not required, volunteers may choose to wear a mask as a personal preference. They will be expected to have their own masks. The GDTA will have a limited number of masks available for emergency use only.

## 4 TRAVEL

The GDTA will not be organizing carpooling this year. Each volunteer shall be responsible for their travel to and from camp. Personal arrangements may be made with other volunteers to carpool to and from camp to meet your personal comfort level.

When possible, the GDTA will arrange a convoy to travel to the trailhead together. The Trip Coordinator will have directions and instructions for each trip for volunteers to arrive at the trailhead or meeting place at designated times. If there is a situation where a ride in a vehicle is required by multiple people, such as a trip into town or in an emergency, PPE masks may be worn to meet comfort level of all passengers.

Directly after the trip, the driver may disinfect the vehicle – clean and wipe down all interior hard surfaces using spray bottle cleaner, disinfectant, and paper towels.

An ATV may be used to shuttle volunteers' food and equipment; however, volunteers are expected to load and unload themselves.



## 5 CAMP

### 5.1 Camp Layout

There is no minimum spacing criteria between tents. It is recommended to maintain 5 m minimum, where possible, to allow people to move around more freely and to support the 2-metre distancing where possible.

### 5.2 Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

Hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of communicable diseases and infections. A handwashing station will be provided in camp. Hand sanitizer will be available when soap and water is not. Everyone should have their own hand sanitizer and biodegradable soap for personal handwashing.

Volunteers should wash/sanitize their hands regularly and avoid touching their face, particularly their eyes, nose and mouth. Always cover your cough and sneezes and then wash your hands.

### 5.3 Cooking

Cooking and dining tents/areas will be designated at camp. It is recommended to stagger cooking and cleaning times to minimize congestion in the cooking tent. There are no restrictions for the number of people inside the cooking tent at one time. Physical distancing, use of a face mask, sanitizing work space after use will help to minimize transmission of COVID. If weather allows, doors and windows of cooking/dining tents should remain open during use. Each volunteer will be instructed and expected to clean and disinfect cooking and dining areas they are using immediately after use. A bleach solution (9:1 ratio of water to bleach), a professional grade cleaner, a professional grade disinfectant in spray bottles, hand sanitizer and paper towels will be supplied.

Each volunteer is required to have their own cooking gear, pots, pans, utensils, dish cleaning towels, etc. The GDTA will supply the two large stoves, a barbeque, and propane fuel for communal use. However, it is important to clean and disinfect the cooking area after each use. Volunteers should also bring a small backpacking type of stove and fuel for their personal use.

### 5.4 Food Storage

An electric fence will be provided for food storage. Everyone will be expected to bring a hard-sided cooler or hard-sided dry food storage container. Each person's hard-sided storage containers will be labelled (please do this at home) and placed in separate designated areas of the fenced compound.

### 5.5 Latrine

A communal, weather-protected latrine will be available. It will be up to individuals to clean and sanitize before and after each use. Cleaner, disinfectant, hand sanitizer and paper towels will be supplied, and everyone will be shown proper disinfecting procedure. If a volunteer feels more comfortable with their own latrine, this will be allowed. They must be prepared to dig their cat hole a minimum of 20 cm deep, 100 metres from the camp and 200 metres from water.

### 5.6 Water

A communal water station will be provided for both filtered drinking water and unfiltered cooking/washing water. Spray cleaner, disinfectant and paper towels will be supplied to clean and disinfect hard surfaces after each use.

### 5.7 Camp Fire

A campfire will be allowed.



## 6 TRAIL WORK

### 6.1 Tools

Each job, as always, will be a personal choice. Each volunteer should carry all the tools they may use during the day and be prepared to clean and disinfect them before putting in the tool crib each night. A spray cleaner and disinfectant and paper towels will be available at the tool crib.

### 6.2 Trail Etiquette

Distancing rules are recommended. For example, when someone needs to pass another on the trail, they will be required first to have sufficient room to pass and to let the other know they are passing.

### 6.3 Tailgate Talks, Manuals and Feedback Forms

All volunteers will be given access to electronic manuals and forms and encouraged to download them onto their smartphones before trips. A designated note-taker other than the Trip Manager will fill out each day's form electronically or hardcopy and ask for a show of hands after the tailgater and record, without circulating the form. The note-taker will then be required to submit electronically or print a hard copy and send it to the GDTA Safety Coordinator. All volunteer feedback will be via an online survey this year. It is especially important when you get a survey from the GDTA that it is filled out and sent back ASAP.

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## 7 APPENDIX A: COVID-19 SELF-ASSESSMENT TEST

<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>

1. Are you experiencing any of the following?

- severe difficulty breathing (e.g., struggling for each breath, speaking in single words)
- severe chest pain
- having a very hard time waking up
- feeling confused
- lost consciousness

**EMERGENCY** – If YES to any of these symptoms, call 911 immediately or go directly to the nearest emergency department.

2. Are you experiencing any of the following?

- Mild to moderate shortness of breath at rest
- inability to lie down because of difficulty breathing
- chronic health conditions that you are having difficulty managing because of difficult breathing

**POSSIBLE EMERGENCY** – If YES to any of these symptoms, please contact your family doctor or call 811 to speak with a nurse.

3. Are you experiencing any of the following new or worsening symptoms?

- Fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- sore throat, painful swallowing
- loss of sense of smell or taste
- stuffy or runny nose
- headache
- feeling unwell, body or muscle aches
- severe fatigue or exhaustion
- nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- unexplained loss of appetite

**NON-EMERGENCY** – If YES to any of these symptoms, you should immediately self-isolate. If you do not get tested for COVID-19, you are required to isolate for 5 days if you are fully vaccinated or 10 days if you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, from the onset of symptoms and until symptoms have resolved (whichever is latest). If your symptoms worsen, call 811.



## 8 APPENDIX B: INFORMATION ON QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION

One of the first critical steps to preventing further transmission of disease is the implementation of quarantine and isolation procedures. It is important to understand the difference and the mandatory requirements for each.

When someone is exposed to a contagious disease, they may not always get sick. If they do become sick, there will be a period of time between being exposed and becoming sick. It can take up to 14 days for people to start experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat).

Quarantine and isolation refer to separating and restricting people from contact with others to prevent transmission.

QUARANTINE	ISOLATION
Quarantine is no longer legally required for close contacts of positive cases unless directed by local public health officials.	Done when people are sick, to keep them from infecting others.
	The isolation period for COVID-19 is 5 to 10 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

Alberta and BC Health Orders describe situations where individuals are required or recommended to quarantine or isolate – See [Alberta Health Authority](#) and [BC Health Authority](#) for full details and exemptions:

- If diagnosed with COVID-19, fully vaccinated individuals are legally required to be in isolation for 5 days and unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals are legally required to be in isolation for 10 days, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.
- Fully vaccinated individuals experiencing new or worsening fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of sense of smell or taste, or sore throat not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition or to a known exposure to COVID-19, are required to be in isolation for 5 days, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.
- Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals experiencing new or worsening fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of sense of smell or taste, or sore throat not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition or to a known exposure to COVID-19, are required to be in isolation for 10 days, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.
- Note the following requirements for isolation:
  - Remain at home, wear a mask, and stay 2 metres distant from others in your household at all times;
  - Do not attend work, school, social events or any other public gatherings;
  - Do not take public transportation;
  - No visitors.
- Persons in isolation are not required to remain in isolation if they test negative for COVID-19 and have no known exposure to COVID-19. However, they must not return to work until symptoms have resolved. Returning while still ill may result in others being infected with their illness (e.g. cold or flu) and forcing those persons to isolate.