



CANADIAN CAMPING  
AND RV COUNCIL  
CONSEIL CANADIEN DU  
CAMPING ET DU VR



Working together  
to camp  
safely

# Opening Nova Scotia's Private Campgrounds and RV Parks

## A Guide for Safe Operations in 2021

Campground Owners take note that:

The names and contact information of individuals staying within the campground each day will be collected by the owner or in conjunction with a reservation service provider and kept on file for contract tracing.



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## Introduction

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the world, and the outdoor hospitality industry is uniquely positioned to help re-energize local economies, enhance the mental health of guests, and maintain safe physical distance protocols. However, resources are needed to help prioritize and manage public health and safety in the wake of this vast change to society.

This guide should be used by each campground owner to develop a strategic plan for their business operation and a copy should be made available upon request.

This will give an overview of best practices to protect the health and safety of staff and guests. A comprehensive list of resources is included. This guide will include facts on COVID-19 and an outline of steps and actions necessary to ensure that campgrounds and RV Parks can re-open in a way that is committed to safety.

This guide is not meant to be an all-encompassing resource or replace the requirements as outlined in applicable Federal and Provincial regulations. It is intended to give an overview of requirements as they relate to the campground/RV park industry in Nova Scotia. All facilities and operations must comply and align with Nova Scotia's Public Health Order.

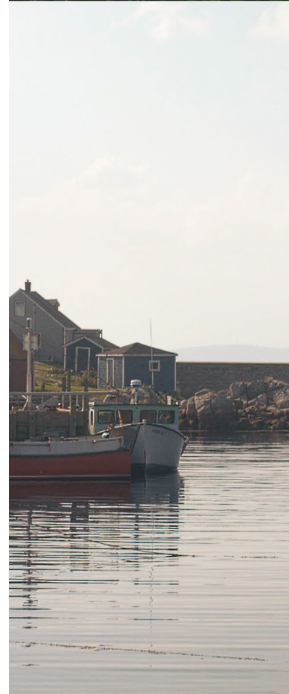
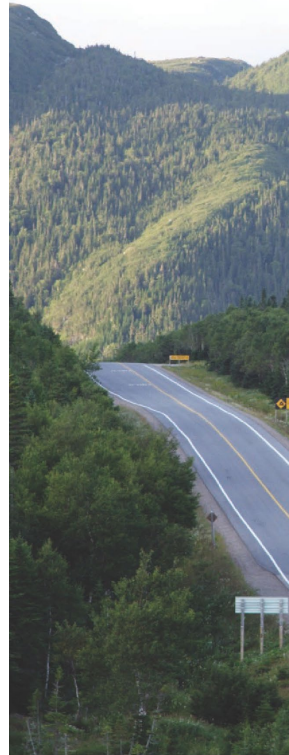
Last, all owners/operators of campgrounds are responsible to not only operate in accordance with these guidelines, but also have an obligation to ensure their campground patrons comply with them. Ultimately, it is campground operators' decision to open and in doing so, assume any liability arising from their respective operations.

## Nova Scotia's Requirements

Originally issued on March 25, 2020, Nova Scotia's Public Health Order has been updated regularly to reflect any changes issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and can be viewed in its entirety here: [Nova Scotia's Public Health Order](#)

### In summary, the order requires:

- Increased diligence to hygiene practices like hand washing, surface sanitization, and physical distancing.
- Self-isolation for 14 days after travel outside the province
- Gathering restrictions: groups must not exceed 10 individuals
- Business and recreation restrictions
- Employer commitments to safety in the workplace





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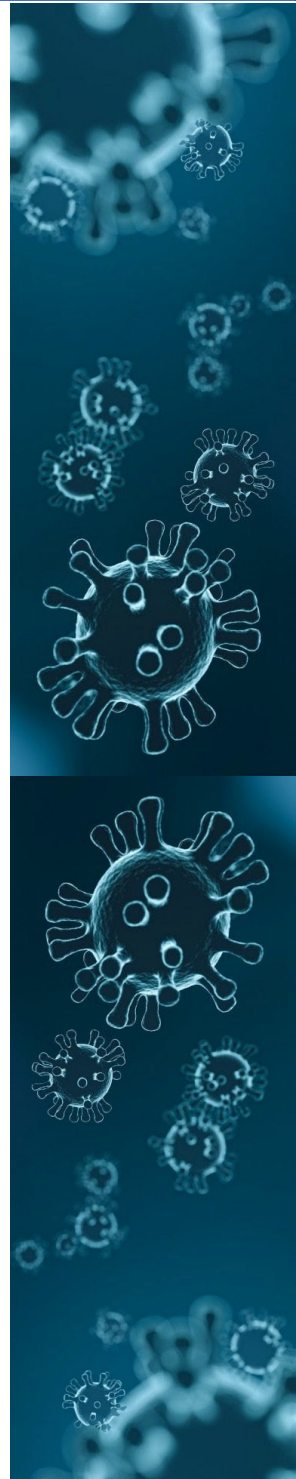
## COVID-19 Facts

### What is the Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. A novel coronavirus is a new strain, and COVID-19 is the particular strain of virus that was discovered late in 2019 in China and has spread across the world in the past few months.

### Understand COVID-19

- Those who are infected with COVID-19 may have little to no symptoms.
- You may not know you have symptoms of COVID-19 because they are similar to a cold or flu.
- Symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to COVID-19.
- Health officials are currently investigating if the virus can be transmitted to others if someone is not showing symptoms. While experts believe that it is possible, it is considered to be rare.
- [Symptoms](#) have included:
  - fever
  - dry cough
  - shortness of breath
  - pneumonia in both lungs In severe cases
- infection **can** lead to death.
- People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus or by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.
- If you, an employee, or a guest are ill and must visit a health care professional, it is recommended that the affected individual call ahead or inform on arrival at a medical facility about respiratory illness. The individual may be asked to wear a mask while waiting for or receiving treatment to prevent the spread of the illness.





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## COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

### General

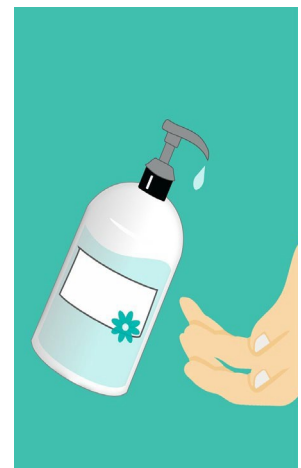
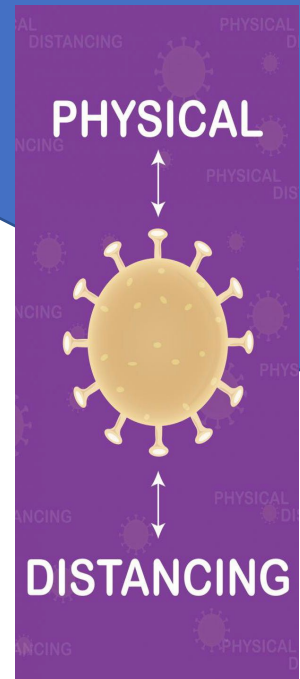
- Place appropriate signage around all entries and throughout the campground outlining policies and procedures such as:
  - Physical distancing expectations,
  - Hand hygiene,
  - Coughing and sneezing etiquette, and
  - Cleaning and disinfection practices.

### Communication

- Utilize social media, website, and email to communicate expectations and procedures in your park to guests and staff.

### Booking & Payment process

- Campers are encouraged to reserve their site on-line or by phone prior to arriving at a Campground.
- Campers should use Debit or Credit cards to make payments, but cash will be accepted.
- Campers will be required to complete a Covid-19 screening questionnaire at least 24 hours prior to check-in at a Campground.
- The questionnaire and acknowledgment may be administered through the reservation system at time of booking.
- Signage identifying TAP is enabled on our payment processing devices (pin pads)
- Pin Pads will be covered in plastic to facilitate disinfecting. If a card is inserted or the device is touched by a camper, it should be disinfected prior to the next use
- Staff are urged to wear latex or nitril gloves but if not available, hand sanitizer should be used after any interaction and accepting cash from customers
- If pens are required for signing credit card receipts, they should be sanitized between uses.
- All surfaces on counters, cash registers and pin pads should be wiped down minimum of once an hour or more periodically as required with a disinfectant
- Receipts will only be provided when requested





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## COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

### Cleaning Shared Spaces and Equipment

- Proper cleaning and disinfection is a critical component of preventing disease transmission, especially high-touch surfaces in shared-use facilities, such as door handles, taps, toilet flush handles and laundry machine dials and buttons.
- Institute a log of daily cleaning and keep records, including inventory of gloves, masks and supplies.
- If operators do not have staff capacity to adequately and frequently clean high-touch surfaces, operators should close non-essential facilities.
- Picnic tables in campsites should be cleaned and disinfected by the campground staff after a camper checks out.

### Wood and Ice Process

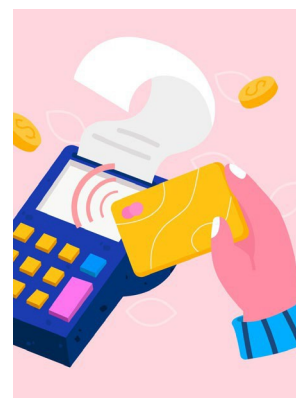
- Wood and ice will be available for sale
- Campers to make payment at the park office (window or counter)
- Campers pick up their wood and ice and proceed to their campsite
- Staff will wipe down the ice freezer handle periodically as required with a disinfectant

### Guidelines for Dump Station Operation (if provided)

- Available to registered campers only
- Sanitize taps and hose and fill up water regularly  
Due to increased use on Sundays as campers prepare to leave, staff should increase monitoring and cleaning

### Guideline on Campground Visitors

- Each campground owner must make the decision with respect to allowing visitors or not. Should they decide to allow visitors, then they need to monitor with respect to limiting visitors as per the COVID 19 orders on social distancing at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/staying-healthy/#social-distancing>.







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## COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

### Provide Employees with PPE and Safety Supplies and Training

#### General Staff Information

- Gloves, gowns, masks, plexiglass partitions, and hand sanitizer should all be provided to employees where applicable.
- PPE inventory tracking is recommended to avoid shortage of supplies.
- Provide all employees with an outline of any new procedures and requirements, including cleaning standard enhancements, guest relations, and physical distancing.
- Employees should be provided with information on what steps to take if they become ill or think they have been in contact with someone with [COVID-19](#).
- Staff completing general maintenance must follow physical distancing (2m) and safe hygiene practices. Appropriate cleaning and sanitizing procedures for work areas including high exposure areas like door handles must be followed. This includes the appropriate cleaning and sanitizing procedures for vehicles and equipment. These are recommendations above and beyond SWP's and manufacturers specifications, which must also be followed.



#### Staff Use of Vehicles (including UTV/ATV)

- Staff are to review and abide by rules and procedures identified including maintaining social distancing while traveling.
- Maintenance Equipment (i.e.: Hand tools, mowers, trimmers, chainsaws, wood splitters etc.)
  - When appropriate/possible assign equipment to one staff member for entire shift. Avoid sharing of equipment if possible.
  - Equipment must be cleaned and sanitized before and after each use. The sharing of fuel containers should also be avoided if possible.
  - Maintenance should be carried out by small working groups of two. These groups must abide by physical distancing guidelines.
  - If task requires two people (i.e. lifting heavy or awkward object) first, consider using other lifting aides (i.e. dolly/Pallet jack). If task brings you within social distancing guidelines face coverings, gloves and eye protection should be worn.





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## Opening Strategy in 2021

### Responsibility – Employee

- Learn the early signs and symptoms of the Corona Virus
  - If any employee has symptoms that may resemble Corona Virus, they must leave work and immediately seek medical help and get tested to avoid spreading illness to others.
  - Employee must wash their hands with soap and water at the start of their shift, before and after eating or drinking, after touching shared items, after using the washrooms, after handling cash and before leaving the worksite
  - All staff should wear personal face protection that covers the bridge of your nose firmly down to your chin if your duties involve personal contact with others.
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- Employees must practice proper usage of PPE at all times.
  - Staff must follow hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette and should avoid touching their face
  - If an employee feels that their work conditions are unsafe, they should talk to their superior immediately
  - Employees should not share cigarettes or vaping equipment
  - Workers should not share communication devices or personal protective equipment

### Responsibility Employer

- Educate your employees about the virus and how to minimize its spread
  - If any employee has symptoms that may resemble Coronavirus, they must leave work and immediately seek medical help and get tested to avoid spreading illness to others.
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- Owners should do everything possible to ensure the health and safety of workers by providing adequate information, training, sanitation and any appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Provide constant reminders about COVID-19 and its prevention, signs and symptoms with highly visible "Stop the Spread" signage at all camper access points

### Campground Operation

- Campers must follow current health guidelines for gathering limits and social distancing.
  - Playgrounds can open with signage to indicate outdoor surfaces are not cleaned and to maintain physical distancing
  - Picnic Shelters are allowed to open
  - Camping/Cooking Shelters (open air style) can open with signage that indicates capacity limits for physical distancing
  - Boat Launches may be operated with physical distancing signage. Campgrounds may limit parking within the boat launch area.
  - Dish Wash Stations (if any) can be open with physical distancing
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- Food and Non-Food Vendors will be allowed to operate, provided that they have Covid protocol documentation that follows take-out guidelines/sector plans.
  - Roofed accommodations are permitted
  - Laundry facilities should only be occupied by one member at a time
  - Washrooms will be open with operational procedures to ensure physical distancing and enhanced cleaning.
  - Anyone using the facilities must wear an accepted mask covering their nose and mouth
  - Hand Sanitizer Stations should be placed at facility entrances

**Operators are expected to play a lead role in ensuring the requirements for safe camping are followed**



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## Supplemental Info

### If Sick with COVID-19:

If you or a guest or employee are sick, stay at home, do not go out in public. Call 8-1-1 or your local health care provider for guidance. If you must go out to seek medical assistance, wear a face mask to protect the people around you. Call 9-1-1 if you are having a medical emergency.

Review [If Sick with COVID-19](#) info-graphic.

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### Campground Resources:

- [Canadian Camping and RV Council \(CCRVC\) COVID-19 Resources](#)

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### Provincial Public Health Information:

- [Re-Opening Nova Scotia](#)
- [Public Health Directives from the Nova Scotia Government](#)
- [COVID-19 Workplace Prevention Checklist](#)
- [Working Safely in Nova Scotia](#)
- [Help your Guests Stay Healthy](#)
- [Information and Support for Employees](#)

