



***Please note: This is a working document that is subject to change with Provincial Health Orders and as safety issues arise and new practices evolve and are implemented.***

The virus that causes COVID-19 is highly contagious and can be spread to others in several ways such as droplets from the nose or mouth (during coughing, sneezing or even speaking) or touching your face after coming into contact with a contaminated surface. The risk of person-to-person transmission increases the closer you come to other people, the more time you spend near them, and the more people you encounter. The risk of surface transmission increases when many people contact the same surface over short periods of time.

The Education Team at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary has identified that there are risks of spreading this disease during our education programs either through close physical proximity or through contaminated surfaces. Therefore, changes have been made to the way that programs are delivered to ensure the safety of participants as well as the Naturalists. The following guidelines, created in collaboration with the District of Saanich, Provincial Health Authority and Occupational Health and Safety must be followed to ensure the continuation of Swan Lake education programs while reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among participants, staff, and other contacts.

**Adaptations made to Swan Lake in-house Biology Buddies and Homeschool Science programs when held entirely outside in order to abide by the provincial health orders during the current COVID-19 pandemic:**

- We ask parents and caregivers to keep their children at home if they are feeling unwell or have come into contact with COVID-19. You can expect that staff will also stay home when sick or after coming into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Children must wash or sanitize their hands when they arrive to class. There will be further opportunities to wash hands throughout the class and before going home.
- All classes will take place entirely outside and therefore children must be dressed for the weather. There will be access to indoor washrooms which are sanitized hourly.
- Staff and children will be expected to wash hands prior to eating, after eating, and after coughing or sneezing.
- There should be no non-essential visitors at the program. Parents or guardians are able to attend the program when needed, but should minimize time spent there.



- Program participants will bring their own food and water bottles to class, and food sharing will not be allowed.
- Personal belongings will be kept in a designated area for each child (i.e. their mat).
- No toys from home are permitted at this time.
- If you choose, your child is welcome to wear a mask, but it will not be enforced by program staff.
- Each child will have designated materials such as scissors, glue, markers, etc. that will not be shared with other participants throughout the session.
- Social distancing will be practiced as much as possible (but will not undermine the safety of participants) and we ask parents and caregivers to maintain space between them, other parents, and other's children when dropping off and picking up.
- A drop off and pick up zone will be delineated by cones and signage. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to stay outside of the learning space so that we are able to abide by spacing requirements and limit possible exposure to participants.
- Only those listed on the form you submitted will be authorized to pick up your child. Please let the program leader know if you would like to update the form before sending an unauthorized person to pick up your child. We will keep daily records of anyone attending the class (e.g. staff working each day, children, visitors, special guests etc.). Records will be kept up-to-date and available to facilitate contact tracing in the event of an outbreak.
- Parents and caregivers are asked to immediately notify sanctuary staff of any participants connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19. Conversely, you will be notified if your child has been in contact with sanctuary staff later connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.
- If a child develops Covid-like symptoms\* during the program, the parent or guardian will be notified to come and pick up the child immediately.



\*The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the flu and common cold. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (see below)
- Chills
- Cough or worsening of chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Muscle aches

While less common, symptoms can also include:

- Stuffy nose
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Dizziness, confusion
- Abdominal pain
- Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes.

Reference: BC Center for Disease Control <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>