



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 in your classroom as well as here in the Nature House 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 school and preschool programs in order to abide by the provincial health orders during the current Covid-19 pandemic:

- You can expect that staff will stay home when sick or after coming into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Education staff will maintain a space of at least 2 meters between themselves and the audience members (physical distancing).
- When physical distancing cannot be maintained, the time in close proximity to audience members will be minimized and a mask will be worn by staff.
- Education staff will limit the touching of program materials to those items which can be properly sanitized before and after each program. Therefore, props such as natural artifacts, puppets and costumes will not be handled by the students or staff.
- It will be the responsibility of the teachers/leaders of the classes to follow their own classroom protocols to keep individual students safe within the group.



Requests for teachers:

- All of the program participants must be healthy during the time of the program. If a child begins to experience COVID-like symptoms* during a program, they must be removed from the group.
- Please immediately notify sanctuary staff if any students or staff in your facility have been connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.
- Please arrange for an outdoor space for the program where the students will be able to sit comfortably and with minimal distractions.
- Your flexibility is appreciated if a program must be rescheduled because staff are unwell or have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Please expect that we will be further limiting the number of students participating in each program and may request multiple programs to keep numbers low but accommodate all of the students in a class.
- Please arrange payment over the phone with a credit card to limit the handling of cash or cheques.

Please note that in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 during the current pandemic, Swan Lake programs will look and feel different. Thank you for your understanding during this time. We are making every effort to continue to engage and inspire our audiences while keeping everyone's safety the first priority. Your support of our programs and help during the presentation to follow these guidelines are greatly appreciated.

*According to BC Center for Disease Control, 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, 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 and/or 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.

See <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>