

# GUIDANCE FOR DOG PARKS

## Overview

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses and entities are required to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- comply, to the extent possible, with the [COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance](#), this guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

This document has been developed to support individuals and municipalities in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including workers, volunteers, patrons and the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control measures, specific to this setting.

This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed. Current information related to COVID-19 can be found: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx>

## COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

<b>General Guidance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage and facilitate attendees to stay up to date with developments related to <a href="#">COVID-19</a>.</li><li>• Notify attendees of the steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission, and the importance of their roles in these measures.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ COVID-19 signage should be posted in highly visible locations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Help prevent the spread” posters are <a href="#">available</a>.</li><li>• When possible, provide necessary information in languages that are preferred by attendees.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Encourage attendees to download the <a href="#">ABTraceTogether</a> app to help let them know if they've been exposed to COVID-19</li><li>• All Albertans must follow CMOH Order 05-2020, which establishes legal requirements for quarantine and isolation.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19; with a history of international travel in the last 14 days; or with close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days must remain at home.</li></ul></li><li>• Individuals/cohort families should maintain a distance of at least 2 metres between members of different households.</li></ul>
<b>Individual Actions &amp; Precautions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Those who are sick or have <a href="#">symptoms</a> related to COVID-19 must not use dog parks.</li><li>• Sharing of dog toys outside of the household should be discouraged to</li></ul>

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	<p>support physical distancing. Consider leaving dog toys at home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring dog waste bags to avoid using shared waste bag dispensers.</li> <li>• Maintain physical distancing and limit congregating with other people when entering and exiting the dog park and supervising dogs playing (e.g. paths, benches, picnic areas).</li> <li>• Refer to the Frequently Asked Questions for Animals and Pets for COVID-19 related inquiries.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is important to remember that pets are not the source of COVID-19, rather animals may in some instances become infected after being exposed to infected people.</li> <li>○ If pets are kept physically distanced from people and animals outside of your household, there is essentially no potential for them to introduce the virus into your household.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Practice proper hand hygiene for animal handling, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or carrying and using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (greater than 60% alcohol content)                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• immediately before and after touching dogs or disposing of dog waste; and</li> <li>• after touching surfaces in the dog park</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Refraining from touching your face,</li> <li>○ Coughing or sneezing into a bent elbow</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Promptly disposing of used tissues in a lined garbage bin, followed by hand hygiene.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Actions &amp; Precautions for Municipalities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipalities should consider ways to increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting high touch areas such as gates and garbage bin handles, or using hands-free garbage bins and ensuring all garbage bins have removable linings. Consider checking these frequently.</li> <li>• Where provided, water fountains may remain open and should be cleaned and disinfected frequently, if possible.</li> <li>• Post <a href="#">signs</a> at the entrance reminding attendees that they should not enter if they have any symptoms of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Post signs to remind users of <a href="#">gathering restrictions</a> and <a href="#">physical distancing</a> requirements.</li> </ul>