

GUIDANCE FOR GONDOLAS, TRAMS AND CHAIRLIFTS

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 operators of gondolas, trams, chairlifts and other similar modes of recreational transport 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 these settings.

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

General Guidance

- There is no specific capacity limit to these settings, as long as there is a distance of at least 2 metres or appropriate barriers between members of different households (with the exception of cohort families), or masks or face coverings are required and worn by all attendees.
- Encourage and facilitate attendees to stay up to date with developments related to [COVID-19](#).
- Notify attendees of the steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission, and the importance of their roles in these measures.
 - COVID-19 signage should be posted in highly visible locations:
 - “Help prevent the spread” posters are [available](#).
 - When possible, provide necessary information in languages that are preferred by attendees.
- All Albertans must follow CMOH Order 05-2020, which establishes legal requirements for quarantine and isolation.
 - 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.
- Operators should develop a plan to provide isolation for an attendee if needed.

GUIDANCE FOR GONDOLAS, TRAMS AND CHAIRLIFTS

	<p>To support public health contact tracing efforts in the event that an attendee tests positive, organizers should consider collecting the names and contact information of attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing information is voluntary for attendees. An organization must obtain an individual’s consent and notify them about the purpose and legal authority for the collection.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Any personal information that is collected for COVID-19 contact tracing can only be used for this purpose.• Information about attendees will only be requested by Alberta Health Services if a potential exposure occurs onsite.• For businesses/workplaces, this includes staff, workers and volunteers on shift. Where feasible to do so, it should also include patrons/customers/the general public.• Records should only be kept for 2 weeks. An organization must make reasonable security arrangements to protect the personal information.• For more information, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has released Pandemic FAQ: Customer Lists about collecting personal information from customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.• For questions about your obligations under the <i>Personal Information Protection Act</i> (PIPA), please contact the FOIP-PIPA Help Desk by phone at 780-427-5848 or by email at sa.accessandprivacy@gov.ab.ca.
Screening & Response Plan	<p>Operators should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post signs that instruct those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to not enter.• Consider implementing active screening of attendees (where reasonably possible) for symptoms of fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose or difficulty breathing.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Operators may choose to use Alberta Health Daily Checklist.○ The Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool can be used by attendees. <p>A rapid response plan sets out a fast-action plan for operators when an attendee shows symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operators should develop a plan that includes appropriate policies and procedures based on the type of attendees specific to their services and settings.• Attendees should be familiar with and follow the operator’s rapid response plan if an attendee starts feeling symptoms during a shift or visit. This should include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Immediately isolating the attendee from others.○ Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces that may have come into contact with the symptomatic attendee.

GUIDANCE FOR GONDOLAS, TRAMS AND CHAIRLIFTS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requiring hand hygiene and masking of the attendee. ● The attendee must isolate as soon as possible.
Booking and Arrival of Patrons for Sight-seeing single ride Gondolas and Trams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advise patrons that they cannot visit if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. ● Where possible, have patrons make a reservation online or by phone. Walk-in ridership should be discouraged (it is recognized that this may not be practical during winter operations). ● Advise patrons they must wear masks or face coverings during the ride, if barriers or physical distancing measures are not implemented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask patrons to bring their own masks or face coverings and/or have a supply on hand for clients to purchase. ○ Advise patrons to carefully store masks/face coverings for the second phase of their journey (e.g., travelling down). ○ Advise patrons to not share their masks/face coverings. ● Where possible, stagger reservation times to enable distancing in high-traffic areas such as lobbies, staging areas and parking lots. ● Consider dedicating non-peak time slots for reservations for high-risk patrons.
Waiting/Boarding Areas for Gondolas and Trams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use signage and other means to educate patrons about COVID-19 rules and procedures. ● Where possible, and without creating additional public safety hazards, facilitate physical distancing for patrons and staff. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advise patrons who are not from the same household or cohort to physically distance. ○ Arrange seating and standing areas to facilitate physical distancing. ○ Place tape or other markings on the ground to identify 2 metre spacing for line-ups. ● Provide hand sanitizer, with a minimum of 60% alcohol content, to facilitate hand hygiene in the waiting areas and just prior to boarding the cabin (this may not be practical in outdoor spaces during winter months). ● Encourage staff to avoid handling patrons' items (e.g., backpacks, bikes, skis, snowboards) or create hygienic-handling procedures where handling is offered or necessary. ● Remove communal items that cannot be easily cleaned, such as brochures, newspapers and magazines. ● Implement increased cleaning frequency for common areas, including bathrooms.
Riding in Gondolas and Trams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Require riders to wear masks or face coverings, if barriers or physical distancing measures are not implemented. ● Where physical distancing is implemented, consider:

GUIDANCE FOR GONDOLAS, TRAMS AND CHAIRLIFTS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arranging seating, or dedicating standing spots, to facilitate physical distancing. ○ Removing or closing off seats to facilitate distancing. ○ Reducing typical occupancy to facilitate distancing. ○ Numbering and designating specific seating or standing spots to ensure riders sit/stand where expected. ● Advise riders not to touch the surfaces of the cabin or tram with their hands wherever possible. ● If lift cabin design allows, encourage riders to face outward (e.g., toward the windows) so that face-to-face interaction between non-household or non-cohort members is limited. ● Where possible, open windows to increase ventilation (i.e. in enclosed cabins). ● Where possible, avoid recirculating air (i.e. in enclosed cabins).
Disembarking/ Unloading Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider slowing the gondola or tram to facilitate orderly disembarking in a manner that allows physical distancing to occur. ● Provide hand sanitizer, with a minimum of 60% alcohol content, to facilitate hand hygiene in the unloading areas after exiting the cabin (this may not be practical in outdoor spaces during winter months). ● Encourage staff to minimize handling patrons' items (e.g., backpacks, bikes, skis, snowboards), or create hygienic-handling procedures where handling is offered or necessary.
Cleaning and Disinfecting Gondola and Tram Cabins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting the interior of cabins and trams (it is recognized that freezing temperatures during the winter months cause problems with water-based disinfectant strategies). ● Implement a system to easily identify which cabins have been cleaned/disinfected and which have not.
Chair Lift Specific Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage physical distancing in areas where riders will be lining up, or require masks or face coverings. ● Require riders to wear masks or face coverings, if barriers or physical distancing measures are not implemented. ● Where physical distancing is implemented, consider reducing the number of riders on each chair lift. ● Chair lift attendants should wear masks or face coverings and perform frequent hand hygiene.
Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● COVID-19 Information for Albertans ● Alberta Biz Connect ● Relaunch guidance documents