

June 2022

BC SPCA Summer Camp 2022 COVID-19 safety guidelines

In order to ensure a fun and safe experience for all our campers, staff and animals, we ask you to read and follow our COVID-19 safety guidelines:

1. While on-site daily screening is no longer required by provincial authorities, please assess your child's wellness each day. Please do not send your child to camp if they feel unwell.
2. All campers will be asked to wash their hands when they arrive, before they leave and during the day as necessary. Hand sanitizer will also be available on-site. Campers will be required to wash hands with soap and water prior to and after handling animals.
3. The BC SPCA is an essential service and as such, extra precautions are required within our shelters to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to staff (and the animals). This is crucially important so we are able to continue to care for the animals and maintain our availability to the public. This may result in less hands-on time with animals this camp season. We appreciate your understanding.
4. Masks:
 - a. The majority of camp takes place in a designated education space within the BC SPCA facility, and outside. Wearing masks in the education space and outdoors is optional.
 - b. Campers will have limited access to shelter areas. Within the shelter (including washroom breaks at select locations), **all campers, parents/caregivers and staff will be required to wear a three-layer surgical mask** as per BC SPCA policy. This is in place to protect members of the public and staff, and as a precaution to protect the animals.
5. Drop-off and pick-up times:
 - a. We request one parent/caregiver attend drop-off and pick-up times to minimize congestion during these busy periods (not required to be same person each day).
 - b. Please do not bring pets to drop-off or pick-up.
 - c. In accordance with current BC SPCA policy, public access to shelters is by appointment only. As such, families will not be able to visit the shelter after camps, unless an appointment has been previously scheduled.
6. Please remind children to cough or sneeze into their elbows and to regularly wash hands.
7. If your child is sick and cannot attend camp, we will offer a refund upon request for days missed.
8. It is recommended that parents should have a free antigen test kit on hand, available at local pharmacies.
9. If a camper gets sick while at camp:
 - a. The camper will be removed from group activities. Staff will contact the camper's authorized contacts to arrange pick-up as quickly as possible. Staff will supervise the unwell camper, while maintaining physical distancing until the authorized pick-up person arrives. Staff will wear a mask and will ask the camper to as well, if they are able.

- b. Unwell campers will only be permitted to return to camp once they are feeling better and have followed public health guidance: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/testing>
10. In the unlikely event that camp staff members are sick and we do not have sufficient numbers of staff to hold camp, camp will be cancelled. Families will be immediately notified by text (if opted in to text messaging through Parent Dashboard) and email. Refunds will be issued for any days of camp missed.

Frequently asked questions:

What health and safety guidelines does the BC SPCA follow?

The BC SPCA follows protocols and mandates established primarily through the B.C. Government, WorkSafe BC and the BC Centre for Disease Control. We also consult with other health organizations to establish guidelines, listed below:

- [B.C. Government](#)
- [WorkSafe BC](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control: camp guidelines](#)
- [Vancouver Coastal Health](#)
- [BC Recreation and Parks Association \(BCRPA\)](#)
- [BC Camps Association:](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [Dr. Scott Weese: COVID-19 Control Measures in Animal Shelters](#)

Will campers practise physical distancing at camp?

Camp activities will occur without physical distancing, though encouraged when practical. We are mindful of minimizing group activities that require close contact. Many of our summer camp activities have been revised, and we have increased the number of outdoor activities where possible.

What hygiene measures are being implemented?

There will be additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces prior to and following camp each day. Moreover, handwashing with soap will be encouraged and required when handling animals. Hand sanitizer will be available at all times.

If my child becomes sick, do I get a refund?

If your child becomes sick in the lead up to their registered camp or while at camp, we ask that you keep your child at home. A refund for any days missed will be granted upon request.

What is your process in the event that someone at a BC SPCA camp tests positive for COVID-19 once they have already been at the camp?

Staff will follow all public health directives and will notify parents to monitor their children. A thorough cleaning and sanitizing procedure of any facilities and equipment used by a camper or camp group with a confirmed case will be conducted.