

# Return to Family Events

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## COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN



Last updated: September 2020

## COVID-19 Safety Plan | Canucks Autism Network

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Hello CAN Families,

We are so excited to be able to slowly re-introduce our in-person Family Events again!

In order to ensure the safety of all participants, families, staff, and volunteers, we will be introducing a variety of new COVID-19 protocols that you will need to familiarize yourself with. CAN will only be re-introducing Family Events that can be delivered outdoors and/or allow for adequate physical distancing.



This document outlines the safety measures that families are expected to follow prior to arriving at a CAN Family Event, as well as processes that our staff and volunteers will implement when overseeing Family Events. These measures have been established in accordance with recommendations from WorkSafe BC and the Provincial Health Authority of BC.

To participate in CAN Family Events, you must read and agree to the terms and protocols as outlined below.

## Member Protocol Prior to Arriving at a Family Event

Parents/guardians and participants are asked to screen for personal symptoms as well as any symptoms shown by family members (participants with autism and siblings) prior to attending a CAN Family Event. Anyone attending the event must answer the following questions:

1. Are you experiencing any of the following:
  - Severe difficulty breathing (e.g. struggling to breathe or speak)
  - Severe chest pain
  - Difficulty waking up
  - Feeling confused
  - Losing consciousness
  - Fever
  - Cough
2. Have you been outside of Canada within the last 14 days?
3. Have you been in contact with anyone who has the above symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19?

**If any family member answered “yes” to any of the above, you will all need to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.**



Please email [info@canucksautism.ca](mailto:info@canucksautism.ca) to notify the CAN team that your family will not be attending the CAN Family Event. **If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, call 811.**

## LOCATION SPECIFIC DETAILS

Parents/guardians are required to review any emails from Canucks Autism Network to ensure they are familiar with the facility-specific safety measures. It is vital that CAN complies with facility-specific protocols or we could lose the privilege of running future events at the facility.

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## Protocol at Family Events

### ARRIVAL PROTOCOL

Upon arrival at the event, families must:

1. Maintain physical distancing at all times (minimum of 2 meters apart from other families)
2. Check in with a CAN team member who will ask the following COVID-19 screening questions:
  - Do you have any COVID-19 symptoms?
  - Have you travelled to any countries outside Canada (including the United States) within the last 14 days?
  - Have you provided care or had close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19?

**If a family member answers 'yes' to any of these questions** on behalf of themselves or another family member, the whole family will be asked to leave for safety reasons.

**If all family members answer 'no' to all of these questions**, the family will be offered hand sanitizer and/or gloves, if appropriate, and invited in the event. In order to keep costs down, families are encouraged to bring/wear their own masks and gloves; however, additional personal protective equipment will be available on site, if needed.

### REQUIRED HAND HYGIENE

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. Participants, families, volunteers and staff can pick up and spread germs from objects, surfaces, food and people. To ensure safety, everyone must practice diligent hand hygiene.

How to practice diligent hand hygiene:

- Wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19.
- If hands are visibly soiled, soap and water is preferred as alcohol-based hand rub may not be effective at eliminating respiratory viruses.
- To learn about optimal hand hygiene, please refer to [the BCCDC's hand washing poster](#) (Appendix A).



**In accordance with provincial health guidelines, all family members are strongly encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands in all of the following situations:**

- After using the toilet
- After sneezing or coughing
- Before eating. It is possible that food/beverages may be offered at Family Events.
- Before and after touching one's face (nose, eyes or mouth)
- After touching a high-contact surface
- Whenever hands appear visibly dirty
- After contact with bodily fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood)
- When putting on or removing masks (for individual's own safety)

### **PRACTICING RESPIRATORY AND PERSONAL HYGIENE**

Respiratory hygiene is also essential for everyone's safety. Participants, siblings, parents/guardians, staff, and volunteers who need to cough/sneeze must do so into their elbow sleeve or a tissue, refrain from touching their face, and wash or sanitize hands immediately.

### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

**Physical distancing is required at all times during CAN Family Events.**

*This requirement will only be broken in emergency situations to maintain participant safety.*



**To support physical distancing, CAN will:**

- Encourage a distance of 2 meters or more between families at all times
- Discourage contact greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes) between CAN families and staff
- Regularly remind participants and families about physical distancing
- Maintain physical distancing during registration

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GEAR**

Wearing a mask is a personal choice made by participants, siblings, parents/guardians, staff, and volunteers. Those who feel more comfortable wearing masks are welcome to bring their own. Good handwashing, sanitization practices and physical distancing are **required** at all times during CAN Family Events as essential protective measures.

**ILLNESS ON SITE**

Participants, siblings, parents/guardians, staff, and volunteers who become ill must leave the event immediately and self-isolate for 14 days.

If someone at the Family Event becomes ill, all families, staff and volunteers will be notified and required to self-monitor for symptoms.

**FIRST AID**

A member of the CAN staff at the Family Event will be designated as the First Aid Attendant. When a situation requiring First Aid arises, the First Aid Attendant will first aim to assess the patient (s) from a 2 metre distance.

- **If it is a minor injury that can be treated by the patient (CAN member):**
  - The First Aid Attendant will instruct the patient to self-treat using certification protocols
- If the patient is unable to self-treat, and the parent/guardian is close by, the First Aid Attendant will provide instructions to the parent/guardian for how to treat the patient.
- **If it is an injury that requires critical intervention:**
  - The First Aid Attendant will don the appropriate level of Personal Protective Equipment (face mask or shield/gloves/gown/goggles or glasses) before coming within 2 metres of the CAN member

## Staffing Protocols and Procedures

### PLANNING FAMILY EVENTS

As a rental group, CAN will work with facilities to understand and incorporate facility-specific COVID-19 protocols. The CAN Family Events Coordinator will be required to complete a review of facility-specific protocols prior to running a CAN Family Event.

In addition to understanding facility-specific plans, CAN will be making significant changes to our Family Events to ensure that we can operate safely. Families will notice changes to activities, locations, capacities and food offerings.

### DISINFECTING

CAN staff will be responsible for cleaning any equipment that is used during Family Events after each time slot and between family uses.

We will also reduce and/or eliminate any food that was previously provided at CAN Family Events.

### Questions or concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns about this document, please email:

[info@canucksautism.ca](mailto:info@canucksautism.ca)

