

Return to Family Experiences

COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN



Last updated: April 2021

COVID-19 Safety Plan | Canucks Autism Network

Hello CAN Families,

In response to ongoing provincial health orders we continue to update our Safety Plans. Canucks Autism Network continues to be committed to safety above all else while offering opportunities for participants and their families to engage in fun activities within their local communities.

For this reason, CAN has moved away from the traditional 'event' format for Family Experiences. Instead, we are looking for opportunities to support families to engage in safe, fun activities in their local communities with only their immediate household bubble.

In our current Family Experience format, CAN families will place registration requests Family Experiences through CAN's registration system. Once registration is confirmed, CAN families will be provided with specific instructions on how to access the experience and whether or not they will need to register for a space or time directly with the facility, with any admission fees already covered by CAN. For some experiences, the primary account holder's name and email address will be provided to the facility for check-in purposes.



By having families directly book their own times with facilities, we can ensure that all of the appropriate facility-specific COVID safety plans are followed. This includes facility measures such as limiting capacities, COVID screening and providing ample information ahead of attending about safety protocols to be followed on-site.

As the pandemic continues, we must continue to look for ways to offer families with fun opportunities while eliminating interaction with CAN staff and volunteers, as well as members from other households at CAN Family Experiences.

We must emphasize the importance of CAN members attending these experiences with only their immediate household bubble. While travel restrictions are in place, it is critical that CAN members register only for Family Experiences within their local community.



Key Updates:

- CAN members will continue to request the opportunity to attend a Family Experience through CAN's registration system
- Once a space is confirmed, CAN members will be provided with information about how to book their time directly with the facility, with their admission fees already covered by CAN (e.g., be provided with a promotional code to use with the facility's online booking system)
- Any facility specific protocols that are required for the Family Experience will be communicated in the participant's confirmation email and will also outline whether CAN staff will be onsite
- CAN members will receive information from the facility directly about COVID safety protocols, and should take care to follow those protocols carefully (e.g., wearing masks, physical distancing, etc.)

Reminders:

- CAN members should attend the Family Experience with only members of their immediate household bubbles
- CAN members should be cogniscent of current travel restrictions, and attend Family Experiences only within their local community
- CAN families should consider current travel advisories when selecting which experiences to register for



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

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

Member Protocol Prior to Arriving at a Family Experience

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):

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 to notify the CAN team that your family will not be attending the CAN Family Experience. **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 family experiences at the facility.

Protocol at Family Experiences

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. Follow facility-specific safety protocols (ie. mandatory masks, hand sanitization, physical distancing, etc.)
3. Answer 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 allowed into the facility as long as facility safety protocols are followed. Families are encouraged to bring/wear their own masks and gloves as additional personal protective equipment may not be readily available at the facility.

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
- 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 Experiences.

If CAN staff are onsite, this requirement will only be broken in emergency situations to maintain participant safety; however, staff on-site are required to wear masks.



If CAN staff are on-site, 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 (MASKS)

In accordance with recent provincial health orders, masks are mandatory for indoor public spaces. This includes entrance foyers, common areas, washrooms, etc.

People who cannot put on or remove a mask on their own are exempt. Masks for children under the age of 2 is not recommended (see [PHO order on province-wide restrictions](#)).

Good handwashing, sanitization practices and physical distancing are **required** at all times during CAN Family Experiences 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 Experience becomes ill, all families, staff and volunteers will be notified and required to self-monitor for symptoms.



FIRST AID

If CAN staff are onsite, a member of the CAN staff at the Family Experience 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 EXPERIENCES

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 Experience.

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

DISINFECTING

If CAN staff are onsite, a staff member will be responsible for cleaning any equipment that is used during Family Experiences after each time slot and between family uses.

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

Questions or concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns about this document, please email: info@canucksautism.ca

