

COVID-19

# COVID 19 Stage 3 - Guidance for Beach Safety and Physical Distancing

The following suggestions are intended to help with reopening or continued operation of beaches. Visit [Lambton Public Health's website](#) regularly for updates and additional information.

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In addition to the following guidance, refer to the **Sports and Recreational Facilities Guidance** which includes additional resources.

COVID-19 is largely transmitted through respiratory droplets that can be spread up to 2 metres. There is currently no evidence that the virus is transmitted through water. Regular public health beach water testing has begun on June 22, 2020. If results show the bacteria level in the beach water is unsafe for swimming, a warning sign will be posted at the beach to indicate the water may pose a risk to health and swimming is not recommended. Regular beach water testing does not test for the presence of COVID- 19.

**Limiting the gathering of crowds/large groups of people in settings such as public beaches is essential to reduce the spread of COVID-19.**

## Staff and Visitor Safety

- Post signage at all parking kiosks, washrooms and walkways for those entering the beach area about [signs and symptoms of COVID-19](#) and the requirement to physically distance from others.
- Staff and visitors must practice [physical distancing](#) by staying at least 2 m away from others and remain in your [social circle](#). In addition new [Stage 3 gathering limits](#) must be adhered to.
- Staff and visitors should be advised to practice good hand hygiene (frequent hand washing, alcohol-based hand sanitizer) and respiratory etiquette (sneezing into a bent elbow or disposable tissue).
  - A "[Wash your Hands](#)" poster should be placed in all washrooms.
  - If budget permits, consider installing hand sanitizer stations or encourage visitors to bring their own personal hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) to the beach.
- Remind staff and visitors to stay home if feeling unwell. Consider



providing [COVID-19 self-assessment](#) on your website for visitors to complete prior to their visit. If visitors become unwell while at the beach, they should go home immediately.

- Consider training lifeguards, bylaw officers, and staff to monitor for large groups gathered together and what to do if a group refuses to separate upon request.
- Consider wearing a [non-medical face covering](#) when travelling through the beach area if and/or when physical distancing is difficult.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- Follow standard protocols for [routine cleaning and disinfection](#). In addition to routine cleaning, high touch surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, shower handles, parking meters, counters, and handrails should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice daily (or more often as needed).
- Encourage beach goers through public education to bring their own water bottle to the beach. Water fountain mouthpieces should be regularly cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Common cleaners and disinfectants are effective against COVID-19. Disinfectants with a Drug Identification Number (DIN) are approved for use in Canada.
- Ensure that public washrooms are cleaned and disinfected frequently, at least twice a day (or more often as needed).
- Ensure the occupancy rate in change rooms is reduced to allow physical distancing (i.e. close off every other change room). The maximum number of people allowed in the change room should be posted on the entrance door.
- Some urinals and sink basins may need to be decommissioned (i.e. taped off) if 2 m spacing cannot be maintained in the current set up.
- Any equipment that is rented to, provided to or provided for the use of beach goers must be cleaned and disinfected between each use or, where used in a game or practice, at the end of play, such as at the completion of a game or practice.

### **Tips to Encourage Physical Distancing and Enable Crowd Control**

There are a few possible methods that can be implemented at a beach to encourage physical distancing. Below are just a few suggestions.

- Limit the total number of people on the beach at one time. This can be accomplished through the following suggested actions :
  - If possible, consider issuing a set number of public passes or vouchers to visit the beach on a given day. This would enable crowd control at the beach and could be coordinated with the purchase of a parking pass in advance (e.g. one paid pass permits beach access and parking for a specified day and timeframe).
  - There should be visual cues in place in any area where line ups can occur (i.e. canteen, washrooms, parking kiosks, etc.), such as markings on the ground, signage, etc.

- Post signage in all parking lots (i.e. at parking kiosks) and other visible areas to inform visitors about the visual cues in place for physical distancing and the expectations for safe and responsible beach use.
- Ensure staff, including lifeguards are trained on monitoring the public health measures in place (such as physical distancing) to protect the public's health and safety.

### **Social and Recreational Activities**

- Beach Volleyball is permitted so long as there is no prolonged or deliberate physical contact between players.
- Spectators will be subject to gathering limits and physical distancing measures, with assigned seating where possible.
- Permit activities such as playing frisbee or catch that allows for physical distancing.
- Playgrounds, play structures and outdoor fitness equipment near the beach are permitted to reopen.

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### **RESOURCES:**

- [Guidance: Facilities for Sports and Recreational Fitness Activities.](#)