



## **Bluewater Adventures 2023 Season: *Communicable Disease Plan***

### **Introduction**

This document outlines Bluewater Adventures' (BWA) policies based on guidance provided by [BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\)](#), [Worksafe BC](#), and by Bluewater Adventures' 'Doctor on call' [3SIXTY5 Medical](#). The safety of all BWA crew and guests is of paramount concern. Although the majority of safety measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic are no longer required, BWA is upholding safe practices, hygiene etiquette, and cleaning procedures to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases aboard our ships.

Bluewater Adventures' Communicable Diseases Plan will continue to evolve. We will continue to adhere to the BCCDC guidelines and expect that all aboard will follow safety protocols as required. Bluewater Adventures will not be held responsible for any changes made to health protocols by provincial and federal health agencies, and/or Transport Canada, and will not issue refunds for any cancellations or fees incurred due to evacuations or postponements. Travel insurance is strongly advised for all guests traveling in 2023. If our Communicable Disease Plan changes prior to boarding your trip, we will share an updated copy with you.

It is expected that all guests & crew understand the importance of staying home if exhibiting symptoms of illness prior to their trip starting. If someone arrives with fever and/or symptoms of illness, they may not be permitted to board (view further information below in **Initial Screening – Prior to Boarding**).

### **COVID Vaccination Policies**

All guests & crew will be required to have two Government of Canada approved COVID-19 vaccines at least two weeks prior to boarding the boat. We strongly recommend that all individuals keep up on all booster shots available to them prior to their trip. We operate in remote areas where access to urgent care is limited. By having all those onboard fully vaccinated, we hope this may prevent a serious case of illness onboard where medical attention may not be readily available.

### **Communicable Disease Prevention Practices**

1. [Cleaning and Disinfection](#): Regular cleaning and disinfection can help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces will occur daily and in line with regular practices and when visibly dirty.



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2. General Ventilation and Air Exchange: Windows and port holes will be open when the weather and situations permit. When possible, it is highly encouraged that guests and crew spend time mingling outside & on deck.
3. Hand Hygiene: Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water or using an effective hand sanitizer reduces the spread of illness. Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene. Crew should facilitate regular opportunities for guests and crew to wash their hands (for example, before every meal/meal preparation).
4. Respiratory Etiquette: Crew can teach and reinforce good respiratory practices among guests including:
  - Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately wash your hands.
  - Refrain from touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Refrain from sharing any food or drinks.
5. Health Awareness: Guests and crew should not participate in a BWA trip if they are sick. We ask all guests and crew to do a personal health check before boarding their flights and on a daily basis during the trip. If you feel ill, please contact the BWA office or the Crew to determine the next steps.
6. Masks and Face Coverings: The decision to wear a mask is a personal one, based on individual preference. Some guests and/or crew may choose to continue to wear a medical or non-medical mask/face covering throughout the day or for certain activities. The choice of any individual to choose whether they practice additional personal prevention measures will be respected.

The only time that a person must wear a mask is if they feel unwell, are exhibiting symptoms, or are caring for a person who is unwell.

### **Safety Protocols**

Bluewater Adventures is asking all crew and guests to be mindful of activities in the week leading up to their trip. COVID-19 is still prevalent in our communities, so please take caution in airports and on your flights to mitigate the chances of being exposed.

Please follow these simple requests:

- Strongly consider wearing face coverings/masks in public indoor spaces
- Follow personal hygiene practices and [wash hands often](#)
- Monitor your health before, during and after travelling – stay home if you are feeling unwell.
- Wear a good quality mask for the duration of your flight.



### **Initial Screening – Prior to Boarding**

Upon arrival at the boats guests will have their temperature taken by BWA Crew using a touchless thermometer and will be asked if they have any symptoms of illness. Should someone display a fever, further assessment by a crew will take place. No one exhibiting symptoms of illness will be permitted to board until further assessment is made – which could include consultation of a medical professional or a rapid antigen test.

If the guest is exhibiting any combination of the following new or worsening symptoms, a rapid test may be administered:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache
- Body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

Suspected Illness Prior to Boarding: Should a guest advise crew that they are experiencing any symptom(s), a follow up assessment will take place with a BWA crew which may include contacting 3Sixty5 Medical and / or administering a rapid antigen test.

Suspected Illness During a Trip: If someone develops symptoms of illness during a trip, the guest must advise Bluewater crew immediately.

- The guest will don a medical grade mask, isolate in their cabin, and await further instructions from the crew.
- If symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, the participant may be rapid tested,
- If the guest continues to display symptoms or their symptoms worsen, they may be tested every 24 hours.
- If symptoms become unmanageable onboard, the guest will be evacuated.

Remaining guests will be asked to self-monitor for symptoms of illness and hand hygiene practices will be increased. <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/close-contacts>



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If there is a suspected outbreak of illness onboard, the trip may be cancelled. The skipper is to contact the office to discuss next steps and consult with 3SIXTY5 Medical.

Based on information from the BCCDC website and direct consultation with Dr Neil McLean, it is Bluewater Adventures policy to refrain from asymptomatic testing and only test when someone has symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

### **Rapid Antigen Testing**

[Rapid antigen tests](#) detect the antigens (proteins) of the virus that causes COVID-19. It can take 3 to 7 days after infection for there to be enough antigens to be detected by the test.

**Public health recommends using rapid antigen tests for people with COVID-19 symptoms only.** This is because if a person with COVID-19 tests too soon after they become infected, the test result can incorrectly show as negative; this is called a false negative. Rapid tests are less sensitive than PCR tests and thus the sensitivity for rapid antigen tests is much higher for people with symptoms than for people without symptoms.

### **Test Results**

**Positive Results:** If the result is positive, it means COVID-19 was detected and they likely have COVID-19. This would mean that the guest would not be permitted onboard (if detected after testing prior to someone boarding) or that the guest would remain in isolation until their symptoms improve & fever has broken, or their symptoms worsen, and an evacuation is needed.

**Negative Results:** If a person tests negative, it means that COVID-19 was not detected at that time. It is still possible that the person has COVID-19. And we will have the guest continue to isolate and wear the best available mask. If symptoms continue or worsen, test the guest again in 24 hours. If the person continues to test negative, ensure that they remain masked for the duration of the trip, physical distance and provide them with their own cabin if possible – if they are part of a couple, have both people wear medical grade masks and ask the other person to self-monitor. If a person tests negative for 5 days in a row while having symptoms, they do not have COVID-19.

### **FAQs ([from BCCDC website](#))**

#### **Do I need to get a PCR test to confirm I have COVID-19 after a positive rapid antigen test?**

No. False positives with rapid antigen tests are rare if you test when you have symptoms. [If you test positive for COVID-19](#), it is recommended you stay away from others until your fever is gone (without the use of medicine, like Tylenol) and you feel well enough to participate in daily activities. If you cannot avoid close contact with others while sick, wear a mask while indoors and clean your hands regularly.



**Can I use a test to be sure I don't have COVID-19?**

Rapid antigen tests are best at detecting COVID-19 when used by those who are experiencing symptoms. A negative result means that COVID-19 was not detected at that time. It does not guarantee you do not have COVID-19.

**I tested negative but I still have symptoms. Should I repeat the rapid antigen test again?**

Generally, people who are symptomatic and test negative should stay home/ isolate, until they feel well enough to participate in regular day-to-day activities. If your symptoms worsen, you can test yourself every 24 hours for 5 days. If you do not test positive after 5 days, it is highly unlikely you have COVID-19.

**I tested positive for COVID-19. Should I continue to test until I have a negative result?**

After a positive COVID-19 test you should stay home/ isolate, until your fever has resolved, and you feel well enough to return to your usual activities. You do not need a negative rapid antigen test as proof that it is safe to return to your normal activities.