

# COVID-19 Best Practices 2021

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# Overview

## Purpose

This document outlines Bluewater Adventures' (BWA) Best Practices as British Columbia continues to work through its Restart Plan, and we return to providing our guests with experiences of a lifetime. It establishes BWA's approach to minimizing Covid-19 exposure risks of crew, guests, and coastal communities. Furthermore, the aim of this document is to promote health and safety throughout the entire travel process from start to finish.

## Mitigation Protocols Promoting Health and Safety During COVID-19

Operating in remote areas along the British Columbia Coast for over 45 years, Bluewater Adventures puts health and safety first. All Crew are Transport Canada certified and safety training is at the forefront of our operations.

### ***GUEST COMMUNICATION***

All guests will be contacted prior to their Bluewater Adventures trip. It will be the responsibility of our guests to review and follow all safety policies:

#### **1. Passenger & Crew Pre-Trip Requirements:**

All guests and crew are required to go through a self, Pre-Trip Screening process prior to their trip. Recognize that access to medical assistance aboard our trips is extremely limited, so it is imperative guests and crew answer all Health Declaration questions truthfully, for the health and safety of all persons onboard.

#### **A) Trip Confirmation:**

Bluewater Adventures will contact all guests and travel trade partners with confirmation of their trip. At this time, BWA will advise of our boarding requirements & Orientation policies as well as an updated Best Practices based on current events. This document is subject to change and all changes will be communicated.

Bluewater Adventures is asking that **all guests be fully vaccinated** at least 2 weeks prior to joining a Bluewater Adventures trip.

**Booking agents** will be responsible for facilitating the self, Pre-Trip Screening Process in full (sections a – c) with their clients booked on BWA trips.

#### **B) 14 days prior to trip departure date:**

- Guests and crew should review the COVID-19 Traveller's Health Declaration.
  - BWA advises all guests and crew to start taking precautionary measures and be socially responsible to minimize their exposure to COVID-19 starting 14 days prior to your trip departure date. This includes avoiding large group events, minimize social interactions beyond your family/ safe bubble and delay any extra social events until after you return from your Bluewater trip. BWA has an obligation to provide a safe environment for all

and will be asking guests and crew to voluntarily take extra safety measures to reduce their exposure to COVID-19.

- If the state of a guest's health changes within the 2 weeks leading up to their trip, they are to contact the BWA office immediately. If a guest begins showing symptoms of COVID-19 at any time during this period, we ask that they do not join the trip.

**NOTE: If double vaccination is not possible, please contact the Bluewater Adventures office immediately.**

### **C) How to Prepare to Join your Bluewater Adventures trip:**

- Be fully vaccinated (2 shots) at least 2 weeks prior to joining your Bluewater Adventures trip.
- Within 48 hours of trip departure, complete the Travelers Health Declaration and provide a completed copy to a Bluewater Crew member upon boarding.

### **D) Arrival Information / COVID-19 Testing / Trip Preparation:**

#### **For Canadian Residents traveling within Canada:**

- BWA is asking all guests and Crew to be **fully vaccinated** at least 2 weeks prior to joining a Bluewater Adventures trip. Be sure to travel with your proof of vaccine.
- If you are unable to have the vaccine, please contact the Bluewater Adventures office to discuss options.
- If you are **Canadian residents** residing in Canada and you are fully vaccinated, a PCR test is not necessary.
- **As an added level of safety, a Rapid Antigen test will be required for all fully vaccinated Crew and guests prior to joining a Bluewater Adventures trip. There are testing clinics available at all major airports and city centres across Canada. It is advised to call and make an appointment prior to arrival and to have it administered as close to your trip as possible.**
- Each guest is reminded to travel with proof of vaccination(s), negative COVID-19 test, and the completed Traveler's Health Declaration.

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#### **For US Residents traveling from the US:**

- All US guests residing in the US **must be fully vaccinated** to travel across the border into Canada.
- All US guests residing in the US **must have a PCR test** within 72 hours of crossing the border into Canada and provide negative test results to border officials in order to be granted entry.
- If you are traveling from the US and plan to extend your visit in advance of your Bluewater Adventures trip, you must **plan to get a Rapid Antigen test** just prior to joining your trip. This are available at all major airports and city centres. It is advised that you call to make an appointment prior to arrival.

- Each guest is reminded to travel with proof of vaccination(s), negative COVID-19 test, and the completed Traveler's Health Declaration.
- Effective August 9, 2021, Canada will allow entry to fully vaccinated American citizens and permanent residents (currently residing in the US) for leisure travel. If you meet the entry criteria, fully vaccinated travellers do not have to quarantine upon arrival to Canada.
- We encourage all travellers to be fully informed of the pre-entry and on arrival public health and testing requirements both federally and provincially. This includes the mandatory use of the [ArriveCAN app](#). Travellers should plan for extra time in the lead up, and upon the arrival of their trip.
- For the latest information on travel to Canada including the updated federal requirements and restrictions, please [visit the Government of Canada website](#).

### **Entry Information:**

To qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption, you must:

- [Be eligible to enter Canada](#) on the specific date you enter
- Have no signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- Have received the full series of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine or a combination of accepted vaccines
- Have received your last dose at least 14 days prior to the day you enter Canada o Example: if your last dose was anytime on Thursday July 1st, then Friday July 16th would be the first day that you meet the 14-day condition
- Upload your proof of vaccination in [ArriveCAN](#)
- Provide a negative pre-entry test result from one of the accepted types of molecular tests (ex. PCR), not an antigen test
- [Meet all other entry requirements](#)

For detailed information, including the steps you should follow before your trip, please visit the Government of Canada website. <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/covid-vaccinated-travellers-entering-canada>

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## **2. Pre-boarding Check-In & Orientation by Bluewater Adventures Crew:**

Prior to boarding our vessels, guests and crew will be required to undergo the following Pre-Boarding Check-In administered by BWA crew:

### **Pre-Boarding Check-In:**

Prior to boarding, the incoming guests will provide crew with their COVID-19 Traveller's Health Declaration, proof showing you are fully vaccinated, and your negative COVID-19 test results. Guests and crew may be asked further screening questions to which all guests must answer truthfully.

No person, guest, or crew, will be permitted to board the vessel if:

- They failed to receive two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, or one dose of over 2 weeks prior to the start of the trip or show proof of vaccine
- They are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms
- Their Pre-Boarding Traveller's Health Declaration indicates they may have COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone who tested positive or was exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Consultation with a Local Health Authority or Health Line (811) concludes that they may have COVID-19.
- They have been refused travel in the past 14 days due to a medical reason related to COVID-19 or are subject to a federal, provincial, or local public health order.

### **Safety and Vessel Orientation:**

- Vessel captains will provide a detailed guest and crew orientation upon boarding.
- In addition to reviewing onboard safety protocols, cabin/head orientations, and general health and hygiene onboard, the captain will inform all guests and crew of further Measures to Reduce COVID-19 Transmission Risk (Section 3).
- Crew will distribute hand sanitizer to guests and other crew prior to boarding.

### **3. Measures to Reduce COVID-19 Transmission Risk - Onboard:**

Although onboard cleanliness is a top priority for the health and safety of crew and guests, BWA must adhere to extra precautionary measures towards our sanitization standards specific to the risk mitigation of COVID-19. We have consulted external guidance from health authorities such as the World Health Organization, the BC Center for Disease Control, and BC Ministry of Health, links for which are listed at the end of this document

**It is understood that despite any guest or crew member having received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, COVID-19 protocols will continue to be observed. Face coverings must be worn, frequent handwashing is encouraged, and physical distancing measures will continue.**

## ***GENERAL INFORMATION***

### **1. Sanitation and Hygiene**

Elevated hygiene and sanitation practices will be expected to be upheld by all aboard.

- Cloth face coverings (3 per person – or enough disposable masks for the entire trip) have been added to the suggested BWA packing list
- Physical Distancing will be maintained whenever possible. Guests and Crew will don face coverings when sufficient distancing is not possible and in common spaces down below in salon, library and hallway to cabins.
- Bluewater Adventures will maintain constant ventilation through the vessel whenever possible

## **Sanitation and Hygiene cont.**

- Personal Care & Hygiene will be upheld, elevating the importance of proper hand washing before eating or drinking, after touching shared items, after using the washroom, and before leaving the worksite. Remove jewellery while washing. Avoid touching their face.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be situated throughout the vessels. In the wheelhouse, salon, shore bag and near food service areas.
- Increase disinfection of all hard surfaces using appropriate cleaners. If household or commercial disinfectant cleaning products are not available, hard surfaces can be disinfected using a mixture of 5 mL of bleach (5% sodium hypochlorite) and 250 mL of water. Make sure the solution is in contact with the surface for 1 minute.
- Clean salon, wheelhouse, outside seating areas, and workspaces, at least once per day, and more often for high-traffic areas and contact surfaces. Focus on frequently touched and shared surfaces such as, doors, handles, handrails, light switches, shelves, countertops, drawers, keyboards and mice, touch screens, pens, tools, phones, radios, chairs, and kitchen equipment.
- Clean any shared equipment (helm, communication devices, demonstration items, binoculars, phones, or touch screens) with alcohol or disinfectant wipes between users.
- Shared heads will be cleaned frequently and will be stocked with full soap dispensers, paper towels, disinfecting wipes and lined waste containers (to be emptied frequently). Crew will be provided with protective equipment required to safely use cleaning equipment.
- Crew and passengers will be reminded to practice good hygiene frequently, including coughing/sneezing into your elbow or a tissue, disposing of tissue and washing hands.
- Signage referring to proper hygiene will be posted in easily seen areas through the vessel.
- Dispose of used tissues, wipes, gloves, and other cleaning materials in a plastic lined waste container.

## **2. Physical Distancing**

The BC Centre for Disease Control advises to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from others at all times.

2 metres physical distancing should be maintained whenever possible - inside the vessel, out on deck, when onshore wildlife viewing, etc. When physical distancing is not possible, a face covering should be worn.

### **When 2 metre, physical distancing cannot be maintained:**

#### *Face Masks/ Coverings:*

- Everyone will wear face coverings.
- Guests will be required to bring their own face coverings sufficient for the duration of the trip. A minimum of 3 cloth masks will allow for hand washing throughout the trip.
- Bluewater vessels will have a supply of extra face masks if required by BWA Crew, guests or visitors aboard.

### *Cabin & Head Orientation:*

- Single occupancy policy: Bluewater will plan not to have solo travellers who do not know each other share a cabin.
- BWA will create infographic signage or video of proper head use and hand washing which will be referenced at this part in the verbal orientation.
- Infographic signage of proper head use and hand washing techniques will be printed and posted in each head as required.
- Crew will instruct guests to open all cabin portholes when not underway in order to create ventilation throughout the ship.

### *Mealtimes:*

- Cooks may prefer to serve family style, or plate meals for each guest and Crew. BWA will provide hand sanitizer at each high traffic space including meal & coffee/ tea stations for people to use prior to filling their plates and mugs.
- BWA will encourage people to eat outside while maintaining physical distancing. When eating inside, guests will sit in designated seating areas - Seating maps will be posted for reference.
- At the end of each meal, each person is responsible for discarding their food waste and placing dishware in a bleach water solution.
- All persons sharing galley duties must don face coverings.
- Paper napkins will be used instead of cloth.

### *Inflatable tenders and kayaks:*

- To safely support guests getting in and out of the inflatable tenders and kayaks, crew will provide hand sanitizer to all guests prior to loading and unloading zodiacs. Face coverings will be worn. Crew will continue to assist guests in and out of boats.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING**

### **Daily Cleaning Protocols and Disinfecting:**

BWA has launched cleaning protocols with enhanced procedures and guidance on how to clean our vessels with specific information on COVID-19 prevention, such as the use of personal protective equipment, like masks and gloves for crew or cleaners, as well as disinfectants that are approved by regulatory authorities.

- BWA will increase the frequency of sanitizing key public spaces and high-touch surfaces with a virus-killing formula suggested by Health Canada
  - High-touch surfaces include: handrails, handles, helm, tables, bunk-side tables, countertops, workstations, light switches, porthole latches, binoculars, electronic equipment such as phones, camera's, GPS, radar, marine radio's, etc.
  - Key indoor public spaces include: the wheelhouse, salon, and Island Roamer and Island Odyssey heads will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently.

## If COVID-19 Outbreak Occurs Onboard

Inform the Crew and Captain immediately. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- ✓ Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing
- ✓ Undue Fatigue / drowsiness
- ✓ Loss of taste and smell
- ✓ Cough, chest congestion
- ✓ Sore throat, headache, muscle aches and pain
- ✓ Fever (38 degrees or higher)
- ✓ Diarrhea

Symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the flu and common cold. Symptoms may vary from person to person. Some people may experience mild symptoms, while others have more severe symptoms. Sometimes people with COVID-19 have mild illness, but their symptoms may suddenly worsen in a few days. People infected with COVID-19 may also experience gastrointestinal symptoms like diarrhea, nausea and vomiting a few days after the onset of the above symptoms. If you only have gastrointestinal symptoms, you may not have COVID-19. To learn more about symptoms of COVID-19, visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control's Symptoms](#) page.

The guest or crew will be instructed to **immediately isolate themselves** in their cabin or a bow cabin, don a face mask, remain isolated until further medical advice is received, and take a rapid antigen test performed by the captain.

- On Island Roamer and Island Odyssey, one of the heads will be designated for the isolated individual. Clear signage is needed to ensure no one else uses that head.
- Aboard Island Solitude, each cabin has a private head.
- The skipper will contact the appropriate **Local Health Authority** or, in some geographic areas **Telehealth Services** (HealthLink service is available in BC by dialing 811) or other designated health professionals and consult how to proceed. If the suggestion is for that person to stay onboard, they will be tested every day with a rapid test while they are on board.
- All meals will be provided to the isolated individual for the entire time aboard.
- It is advised that all non-British Columbia Residents purchase evacuation insurance should they become ill and require immediate medical attention. British Columbia residents are covered under the BC Medical Services Plan and evacuation insurance is not required.

### Daily Check-Ins:

Should anyone exhibit possible symptoms of COVID-19, a designated crew member will conduct daily, one-on-one verbal check-ins and temperature takings with all passengers and crew. If guests or crew are not feeling well, inform the captain immediately and await instructions.



## Travelling To and From Your Trip with Bluewater Adventures

Before traveling to and from your trip with BWA, please be advised of the most up-to-date travel advice before you depart. Please be aware of possible travel cancellations outside of BWA. The Bluewater office will be monitoring regular public travel routes often used by guests and crew and will try to advise on travel arrangements when possible.

“Know before you go.” <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>

BWA will advise all guests and Crew to arrange **expedited travel** planning on their way to their trip with us. Expedited travel is the concept of traveling directly from the guest or crew member’s home to the vessel in the most efficient manner with the least possible stops or overnights. If people want to plan other activities as part of their holiday, please do so after your trip with BWA.

It is also requested that all guests be familiar with any COVID-19 protocols for the places that you are about to visit.

**Bluewater Adventures requests that any guests who begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 in the two weeks following their trip to contact the Bluewater office immediately.**

## Employee Policies

Employees Must:

- Obtain both doses of your COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 weeks prior to joining any Bluewater Adventures expedition.
- Be conservative in activities for the two weeks leading up to their trips. See expedited travel advice above.
- Practice physical distancing by working more than 2 metres (6 feet) apart from co-workers whenever possible. If distancing is not possible, Crew will don a face covering. Crew will on face coverings at all times indoors. Cooks must wear face coverings if sharing the galley with another person.
- Stay home if they are unwell. Use the BC Ministry of Health for self-assessment: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en> and advise the office immediately.
- Wash hands before eating or drinking, after touching shared items, after using the washroom, after handling cash or credit cards, after touching common items, after each delivery if contact was made, and at the end of their shift. Remove jewellery while washing.

## Useful Links:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/about-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>

<http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>