

COVID-19 Best Practices 2022

Prepared by Bluewater Adventures Ltd.



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Overview

Purpose

This document outlines Bluewater Adventures' (BWA) Best Practices as we plan to continue operations in the safest way possible, based on protocols provided by the provincial & federal health authorities and Transport Canada. It establishes BWA's approach to mitigating 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. 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:

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 and orientation policies, as well as an updated Best Practices based on current events. This document is subject to change. We will do our best to inform you of any changes in travel regulations and protocols but being aware of any details that impact travel is the responsibility of the agent/guest.

Bluewater Adventures requires that **all guests and crew be fully vaccinated** with two doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 weeks prior to joining a Bluewater Adventures trip. It is strongly encouraged that guests & crew receive any booster dose(s) that are available to them.

Plan to travel with your official proof of vaccination and be sure that you fully understand and comply with all travel requirements from airlines, your country of origin and destination.

We respectfully ask that all guests and crew that are planning to join a Bluewater trip to be extra mindful of the activities that they participate in during the days leading up to travel.

B) 10 days prior to trip departure date

- Guests and crew should review the COVID-19 Health Screening Form.
- BWA advises all guests and crew to start taking precautionary measures and be socially responsible to minimize their exposure to COVID-19 **starting 10 days** prior to your trip departure date. This includes avoiding large group events, minimizing social interactions, and delaying any large social events until after you return from your Bluewater trip.
- If the state of your health changes within the 7 days leading up to your trip, please contact the BWA office immediately to determine next steps, 604-980-3800.

C) 2 days prior to trip departure date - Health Screening Form

Bluewater Adventures is required by Transport Canada to provide a health screening to all guests and crew prior to embarkation. It is of the utmost importance that we all work together to prevent any virus from coming aboard and potentially disrupting our trip.

All guests and crew are required to complete the form 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 Screening Form questions truthfully for the health and safety of all persons onboard.

In the days leading up to your trip, Bluewater Adventures will email you a link where you can access your secure online form and complete/ submit it (including an upload of your proof of vaccination) within 2 days of your trip. We expect everyone to answer each question truthfully, and if you can answer “yes” to any of the questions, please contact the Bluewater Adventures office immediately.

D) Arrival Information / COVID-19 Testing / Trip Preparation

The Government of Canada announced that effective April 1, 2022, **fully vaccinated travelers** will no longer need to provide a pre-entry COVID-19 test result to enter Canada by air, land, or water.

Entry into Canada Information

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

- [Be eligible to enter Canada](#) on the specific date you enter
- Have no signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- Have received at least two doses of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine or a combination of accepted vaccines, or 1 Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- Have received your last dose at least 14 days prior to the day you enter Canada.
 - 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
- Download your [ArriveCAN](#) app, and complete questionnaire and fulfill all requirements prior to checking in for your flight if coming in from an international destination. ArriveCan is not needed for domestic flights
- [Meet all other entry requirements](#)

How to Prepare to Join your Bluewater Adventures trip:

- Be fully vaccinated (minimum 2 doses) more than 2 weeks prior to joining your Bluewater Adventures trip. We strongly suggest that you get whatever booster dose becomes available to you. Print out and carry your proof of vaccination when you travel
- Protect yourself from the unexpected. Purchase travel insurance and airline tickets with flexibility.
- Be aware of any changes to travel requirements mandated by governments or airlines. Arrive at the airport early for your flight. Staffing shortages have created long wait times at some airports.

- Within 2 days of the start of your trip, complete a confidential Health Screening form. If you can answer “yes” to any of the questions, please contact the Bluewater Adventures office immediately.
- If you are crossing the border into Canada print out and carry your official proof of full vaccination and download and complete the [ArriveCan App](#).
- **For all Southeast Alaska expeditions entering Canada aboard Island Roamer**, please refer to your confirmed Itinerary where trip-specific information is explained in detail.

Please arrive at your Bluewater Adventures vessel wearing your face-covering and await instructions as we prepare to welcome

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

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

- They failed to receive two doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine or show proof of vaccination (Upload to copy to Health Screening form)
- They are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms
- They answered “yes” to any of their Health Screening Form questions, and after contact by the Bluewater office, was deemed not fit to travel.

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

Onboard cleanliness continues to be a top priority for the health and safety of crew and guests. BWA will adhere to extra precautionary measures specific to the risk mitigation of transmissible diseases. We have followed external guidance from BC Provincial and federal health authorities.

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. Masks are to be worn inside, frequent handwashing/sanitizing is encouraged, and physical distancing measures will continue whenever possible.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Sanitation and Hygiene

- Personal care & hygiene elevates the importance of proper hand washing before eating or drinking, after touching shared items, and after using the washroom
- 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
- 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.
- 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 to create ventilation throughout the ship.

2. Physical Distancing

The BC Centre for Disease Control advises to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres whenever possible including inside the vessel, out on deck, when onshore wildlife viewing, etc. When physical distancing is not possible outdoors, a mask should be worn.

3. 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 possible.
- At the end of each meal, each person is responsible for discarding their food waste and placing dishware in the bin provided.
- All persons sharing galley duties must don face coverings.

If COVID-19 is Suspected Onboard

A guest/crew should inform the captain immediately if they start to experience the onset of:

- ✓ 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

The symptomatic guest or crew will be instructed to **immediately isolate themselves** in a cabin, don a face mask, and undergo a rapid antigen test.

- If the rapid test comes back negative, the guest/crew will remain in isolation for another 24 hours at which time another rapid test will be administered. If the second test comes back negative, this person can be integrated back into the boat if their symptoms have started to improve. This guest must wear a face covering at all times in shared spaces.
- If any test comes back positive, that person will remain in isolation for at least 5 days or until they are symptom free and testing negative. Isolation may take place onboard the vessel if possible or on shore under the captain's advice.
- Any common surfaces that the symptomatic person came in contact with will be cleaned
- 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 emergency medical attention. British Columbia residents are covered under the BC Medical Services Plan and evacuation insurance is not required.

If more than one guest exhibits symptoms / test positive with COVID-19, those guests will be isolated. The ship will continue to isolate people who are symptomatic until we can no longer do so safely, at which time, the ship will sail back to port.

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.

BWA will advise all guests and crew to arrange **expedited travel** 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.

Complete the confidential Health Screening Form before you embark on your flight to meet your Bluewater Adventures expedition.

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 7 days following their trip to contact the Bluewater office immediately.