

Camping amid COVID-19: Guidelines - **DRAFT**

This document is a draft distributed for global review from 08 to 12 July 2020. It is not ready for use. The text of this document will be reviewed, improved, formatted, and designed and it is expected to be published 21st of July. If you have comments and suggestion use the review template provided at:

<https://www.adventuretravel.biz/covid19guidelines-review/>

We're on a Team

The COVID-19 pandemic has entered a new phase, travel is restarting, and travelers want to travel and companies want to operate while minimizing COVID-19 contamination risk. ATTA Activity Guidelines for Adventure Travel have been developed jointly by ATTA, Cleveland Clinic and a cohort of operators.

The **Camping amid COVID-19: Guidelines** were designed to be used together with [Adventure Travel COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines](#)

While the current knowledge (July 2020) indicates that the risk of the coronavirus being passed on to others outdoors is reduced when people maintain social distancing, operating under these Guidelines should only be undertaken after thorough risk and safety assessment and compliance with existing destination government guidance.

These guidelines are intended to be a flexible framework for ATC's (adventure travel companies) to use in reopening. Companies should tailor their actual policies and practices based on their unique operations, applicable laws, regulations, and health standards in their locales, and consult with their own legal, safety, and financial advisors to develop a reopening guide for their situation.

These guidelines are not intended to be an exhaustive list of possible actions nor is it meant to encourage ATC's to resume operations before they are ready to do so. These guidelines are designed to be used as a supplement to ATC's current risk and crisis management plans, operating procedures and protocols, legal documents (e.g., terms and conditions and liability waiver), and customer trip materials – not as a substitute.

It is intended to be a flexible framework for ATC's (adventure travel companies) to use in reopening. It is meant to be flexible. Companies should tailor their actual policies and practices based on their unique operations, applicable laws, regulations and health standards in their locales, and consult with their own legal, safety and financial advisors to develop a reopening guide for their situation.

This guide is not intended to be an exhaustive list of possible actions nor is it meant to encourage ATC's to resume operations before they are ready to do so. These guidelines are designed to be used as a supplement to ATC's current risk and crisis management plans, operating procedures and protocols, legal documents (e.g., terms and conditions and liability waiver), and customer trip materials – not as a substitute.

Note: This is a living document. As international and national restrictions and Public Health guidelines evolve, this document will also evolve to reflect new advice and changes to guidelines when they emerge. Guidelines have been developed in line with the most recent information coming from international and national sources related to health, tourism and outdoors activities. We welcome you feedback any time: covid19guidelinesreview@adventure.travel

Disclaimer: The information contained within these operational guidelines may change from time to time due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. It must not by itself be relied upon in determining obligations or other decisions. Users of this document must independently verify any information on which they wish to rely. It is expected that all business owners and management will have familiarized themselves with governmental, health authority, and regulatory guidance prior to re-opening and implemented all relevant requirements. Adventure Travel Trade Association does not assume, and expressly disclaims, any legal or other liability for any inaccuracy, mistake, misstatement, or any other error of whatsoever nature contained herein. The information accessible in this document has been compiled from many sources that are not controlled by Adventure Travel Trade Association. While reasonable care has been taken in the compilation and publication of the contents of this document, Adventure Travel Trade Association makes no representations or warranties, whether express or implied, as to the accuracy or suitability of the information or materials contained in this document. Adventure Travel Trade Association shall not be liable, directly, or indirectly, to the user or any other third party for any damage resulting from the use of the information contained or implied in this document. By proceeding to use this Adventure Travel Trade Association document you are accepting this disclaimer.

Camping

Camping can be considered a low-risk activity amid COVID-19. Camping takes place in constantly well-ventilated areas, involves distanced accommodations and activities during the day, and does not require close supervision. However, because clients are highly independent in a typically relaxed setting, it is necessary that clients are constantly aware of and committed to adhering to all COVID-19 safety protocols and regulations.

1. Group Management

- a. Consider the context of where to camp for social and physical distancing. Developed and popular campgrounds tend to be places where people congregate and have higher-traffic areas, thus more protective measures should be applied. Backcountry camping involves less exposure to COVID-19 risks.
 - i. Certain camping areas may have their own COVID-19 procedures such as online-booking, reduced capacity numbers, and permits. Other measures may also be enforced such as distancing, use of face coverings, health screening, and enhanced sanitation requirements etc.
- b. Small groups, FIT, or household groups should be favoured to promote distancing. Strive to keep trip participant numbers as low as reasonably possible.
- c. Physical distancing does not need to apply to household units.
- d. Physical distancing should be practiced as much as possible if the group involves more than one household unit. How each individual moves about throughout the experience will greatly influence your group's distancing practices - operators should promote the shared responsibility for distancing.
- e. Consider using face coverings when in situations of higher risk of virus transmission. Examples include: transportation, check in, during close-proximity instruction, helping

each other set up shelters, or when camping on shared areas where distancing is difficult to maintain.

- f. When administering first aid, some distancing methods need to be adapted or cannot be used. Use Personal Protective Equipment - PPE such as face coverings and gloves.
- g. Consider the need for defining additional COVID-19 evacuations protocols.

2. Pre-Arrival, Instruction and Briefing

- a. Have screening actions in place. Before joining the activity or experience ask guests to self-assess their physical condition and self-screen their risk profile. Inform guests that if they have symptoms, however mild, or are in a household where someone has symptoms, they are advised to stay at home.
- b. If doing longer stays, consider additional pre-trip recommendations and screening, such as suggesting steps to limit exposure to COVID-19, using screening questionnaires, or testing.
- c. Screening and monitoring measures should be extensive for staff members.
- d. Set clear standards and boundaries for COVID-19 health and safety measures and guest participation. Make relevant information about the activity available, such as the risks involved and the measures you are taking to manage COVID-19 risks. Ensure guests understand the risks and what is expected of them to participate.
- e. Provide ample access to hand washing facilities and sanitizer. Ask that guests sanitize hands when entering any building, kitchen, or dining facility, before starting an activity and as often as needed throughout the activity.
- f. Adapt your briefing to avoid the need to get close to guests when possible. For example, while briefing and handling or organizing gear.
- g. Strive for physical and social distance at the beginning and at the end of tours, always favoring open and well ventilated spaces.
- h. When closer contact is required consider the use of face coverings.

3. Transport

- a. The use of vehicles to transport clients includes a higher degree of COVID-19 transmission risk. Measures to mitigate risk should be used whenever possible; open vehicle windows, provide space in between passengers and have passengers wear face coverings. Consider the use of face shields or the use of private vehicles for transportation as additional measures.
- b.

4. Camping

- a. Favour sites and locations that allow your group to have space, avoid popular sites to minimize your exposure and allow for distancing.
- b. If your group includes non-household members, or other groups are nearby, try to maintain ample space at all times. If distancing is not possible (for example accessing a common water source), consider using face coverings.
- c. Shelters: consider how individuals can sleep while being physically distanced.
 - i. Avoid members of non-household groups sharing shelters.
 - ii. Arrange to provide single person or household unit shelters, or large well spaced and ventilated sleeping arrangements.
 - iii. Arrange for shelter set up arrangements that enable air flow and ventilation.
 - iv. Shelters or sleeping quarters should be assigned to the individual, and should not be shared or interchanged for the duration of the tour.
- d. Toilet facilities can range from individual catholes or improvised latrines in the backcountry, to outhouses or established bathrooms in campgrounds.
 - i. Ensure rigorous personal hygiene is part of any toileting arrangement.
 - ii. Ensure rigorous cleaning and disinfection of any shared facilities (permanent or improvised) consistent with your protocols and local official recommendations.
 - iii. Consider setting up washing stations and disinfection schedules to promote consistent implementation of precautions.
- e. Prepare for interaction with people external to your group. Often people socialize and chat on campgrounds or campsites - remember they might not know, or be following, the same health and safety standards that you require of your group.
- f. Adapt your procedures to be able to maintain social distancing while helping guests with basic camping tasks or activities such as setting up shelters, eating, fetching water, or doing dishes.
- g. When closer contact is required consider the use of face coverings.
- h. For information on lodging see [Small Lodges amid COVID-19: Guidelines.](#)

5. Food

- a. It is essential that a rigorous hand washing and sanitation regime is implemented when handling any food for cooks, servers, and customers. Consider designating hand washing stations and scheduled time to promote consistency.

- b. Standard food safety field guidelines should always be employed, such as rigorous hand hygiene, utensil sanitation, food storage, and a three sink method of dishwashing (wash, rinse, sanitize).
- c. Food materials should be either cleaned, washed, sanitized, or cooked according to local food safety standards and guidelines.
- d. Surfaces, tables, plates, containers and utensils should be sanitized before and after use.
- e. Food preparation procedures should carefully promote distancing and prevent surface contact. Measures could include designating a chef that is responsible for the whole process (instead of group cooking) and designating exclusive preparation areas.
- f. Snacks and uncooked food should be planned and handled appropriately to minimize chances of surface contact contamination.
 - i. Consider providing individually packed snacks, such as pre-wrapped sandwiches, bars, snack mixes, fruit, etc. and coordinate the handing out in a sanitary way.
- g. Consider whether or not chefs, food handlers or helpers should have masks at all times.
- h. For eating, distancing and surface precautions also apply. Examples include: allowing for spaced serving and seating, minimizing the use of shared surfaces and increasing sanitation; consider designating spaced eating areas and handling out plates.
- b. Ensure food safety is in line with local official guidance.
- g. For further information on food handling see [Culinary Experiences amid COVID-19 Guidelines](#).

6. Use of indoor spaces

If camping in developed facilities, consider the main places that you are likely to have to share with other people (showers, bathrooms, washing areas, and shelters) and ensure their COVID-19 procedures and standards are adequate for your operations.

- a. Facility sanitation regimens should be adequate and communicated clearly to guests.
- b. It is important to have ample ventilation in enclosed areas, such as cooking or eating shelters. Promote natural airflow and consider additional ventilation in the hours the facility is not being used.
- c. Capacity planning and clear space definitions and markings can be helpful in making distancing a consistent practice.

- d. Some areas might be closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Consider the measures that will be necessary for times when weather is poor and demand for use of shelters increases.

7. Equipment

Enhancing sanitation is a key part of mitigating COVID-19 risk. Whenever possible, participants should avoid sharing equipment and should care for their own personal equipment.

- a. Prevent surface contact where needed, for example:
 - i. Identify high use areas, such as, at base, office, transport, water sources.
 - ii. Clean high use areas often, and
 - iii. Prevent contact in high use areas when possible.
- b. Each person (or household group) should have their individual equipment issued (e.g. tent or tarp, sleeping bag and mattress) for the duration of the tour.
 - i. Cleaning of gear that comes into contact with skin (e.g. sleeping bags) is a standard good practice and can be employed to reduce surface contact.
 - ii. Consider how to identify, pack, handle, and set up the individual (or household unit) designated equipment while minimizing surface contact, particularly when support staff cares for the clients' equipment.
- c. If support staff cares for shared gear such as kitchen shelters, cookware, rations, consider the requirements necessary to prevent cross contamination and promote gear sanitation in the field.
- d. Campers could be advised to bring their own equipment whenever possible.
- e. Consider sanitizing any gear that could be a vector for COVID-19 transmission.
- f. Use recommended methods for cleaning and sanitizing that have been determined to kill the COVID-19 virus, such as, appropriate rest time in between uses, or using soap and water or bleach solutions. Follow manufacturer's instructions and the recommendations of official health and safety agencies.
- g. Consider implementing safe-handling procedures for personnel who use cleaning products to clean equipment to prevent harm from chemicals or cross-contamination.

8. Additional resources

- a. [ATTA COVID-19 Guide for the Adventure Travel Industry](#)
- b. Cleveland Clinic
 - i. [Return to work amid COVID-19: A Cleveland Clinic Guide](#)

CAMPING AMID COVID-19: Guidelines - **DRAFT**

- i. [COVID-19: Creating a Safe Workplace](#)
- ii. [Advice on Reopening Business: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- c. CDC - [Suggestions for Youth and Summer Camps](#)
- d. Leave no Trace - [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
- e. WHO [COVID-19 and food safety: guidance for food businesses](#)

Draft