

Tennis NB Risk Management/Operating Plan

Public health measures taken by participants, organizers, and operators for outdoor recreational spaces and activities are part of Canada's collective approach to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. While there is currently preliminary evidence suggesting that the risk of coronavirus transmission is greater in indoor compared to outdoor settings, the potential contribution of outdoor recreation to the spread of COVID-19 is unknown. This tool is based on concepts outlined in the guidance developed for community-based measures entitled: Community-Based Measures to Mitigate the Spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Canada. It reflects the currently available scientific evidence and expert opinion, and is subject to change as new information on transmissibility, epidemiology, and effectiveness of public health and risk mitigation measures becomes available.

What are the COVID-19 risks associated with the use of outdoor recreation spaces and activities?

The following facts about COVID-19 and associated questions can help you consider the risks of COVID-19 in outdoor spaces and during outdoor recreational activities.

The risk level is affected by whether there is COVID-19 activity in the local community. If there is known COVID-19 activity in the community, the likelihood that it could be introduced into an outdoor space or recreational activity is higher. The risk of COVID-19 introduction and spread is also presumed to be greater if a higher proportion of individuals visiting the outdoor spaces or participating in the activity comes from outside of the community. Measures put in place to mitigate risk should be proportionate with the risk in the community, which is informed by the local epidemiology. Public health authorities (PHAs) can be consulted for information about local COVID-19 transmission.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Evaluate location of activity and be aware of Covid-19 cases in the area. If community has cases, we will not hold events in this location. Tennis NB will also collaborate with host locations on adhering to any additional measures that are in place as if relates to specific facilities.

COVID-19 spreads from person to person, most commonly through respiratory droplets (e.g., generated by coughing, sneezing, laughing, singing, or talking) during close interactions (i.e., within 2 metres). People who have COVID-19 may have few to no symptoms, or symptoms may be mild, and people are infectious to others prior to when their symptoms start.

Do participants (e.g., park users, players) interact with many other people while using the outdoor space or during the activity? A higher number of interactions with others will carry a greater risk.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Use Tennis NB on-court Return to Play guidelines and modified tournament rules.

Do participants interact closely (within 2 metres) with others while in the outdoor space or during the outdoor recreational activity? Closer interactions carry greater risk than interactions at a distance.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Physical distancing on court, singles play only, doubles play with partner within a player's family & friends bubble, on court seating for players spaced appropriately, switch sides of court on opposite sides of the net. Physical distancing of players and spectators off court with adherence to the gathering restrictions of 50 or less.

Do participants have prolonged close interactions with others while in the outdoor space or during the outdoor recreational activity (e.g., team sports, trail lookouts, narrow trails, picnic areas and campgrounds)? Prolonged contact is defined as lasting for more than 15 minutes of time being less than 2 metres away, and may be cumulative (i.e., over multiple interactions). Evidence indicates that person-to-person spread is more likely with prolonged contact.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Continue to limit gatherings and close contact and interaction between players and/or spectators. Provide signage and do active enforcement of physical distancing.

Is the outdoor space or recreational activity crowded (i.e., high density of people) on a regular basis? A crowded setting is presumed to have greater risk.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Most of our outdoor venues have ample space but we will continue to adhere to gathering of 50 or less at all events.

Do any interactions occur indoors (e.g., use of restrooms, changing for an activity or sport, spending time in a cabin or tent with others while out on the land)? Being in a confined indoor space carries a greater risk.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Some indoor space is used in particular small club houses or public washrooms. Limit access to club house unless necessary and provide additional hand wash/sanitizing stations as needed. Disinfect frequently touched surfaces as required.

COVID-19 can also be spread through touching something with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.

Do participants frequently have contact with high-touch surfaces (i.e. surfaces frequently touched by others)? A higher number of contacts with high-touch surfaces (e.g., shared recreation equipment, climbing structures, restroom facilities, handrails next to stairs) is presumed to have greater risk.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Tennis NB will be limiting the number of high-touch surfaces on court, there will be no benches/seating provided (players will be encouraged to bring their own seating), there will be no scorecards on court, two cans of balls will be used for each match (one per player), and gates/doors to the courts will be propped open so players do not have to touch them to enter the courts. Tennis NB will provide an ample supply of gloves, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, and masks at all events in addition to what various facilities might also have in place.

Are facilities available where participants can wash and/ or sanitize their hands before and after eating, and after contact with high-touch surfaces (e.g., access to hand hygiene stations/supplies)?

TENNIS NB ACTION: In addition to what is provided at each facility, Tennis NB will also ensure supplies are available.

COVID-19 can cause more severe illness among people who are 65 and over, and those who have compromised immune systems or other underlying medical conditions.

Do you have participants who may be at higher risk of severe illness?

TENNIS NB ACTION: Yes, we do offer events for players 65 and over. We will ensure appropriate screening takes place and that anyone who is sick or showing symptoms will not be allowed to participate.

COVID-19 spread can be reduced by consistently practicing personal protective practices.

Are participants able to follow hygiene practices such as washing/sanitizing hands frequently, respiratory etiquette, and identifying when they are feeling ill and staying home?

TENNIS NB ACTION: Appropriate signage to encourage appropriate practices by participants.

How can COVID-19 risks be mitigated in outdoor recreational spaces and activities?

To prevent or limit the spread of COVID-19 in community-based settings such as an outdoor space or during a recreational activity, consider the following risk mitigation principles and measures. Risk mitigation measures that are more protective involve separating people from each other or shared surfaces through physical distancing and physical barriers. Measures that are less protective rely on individuals to consistently follow personal protective practices (e.g., use of personal protective equipment, wearing of non-medical masks). To maximize safety, use a "layered" approach with multiple measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread, including decreasing the number of interactions with others and increasing the safety of interactions. Layering of multiple mitigation measures strengthens the risk mitigation potential overall. The following risk mitigation measures will be used to align with public health advice, return to play guidelines, and modified tournament rules.

Provide information about the expected individual behaviours upon arrival (e.g., physical distancing, hand hygiene)

TENNIS NB ACTION: Communicate through email, tournament fact sheets, website and social media what participants should expect when they arrive at an event.

Require that participants in organized outdoor recreational activities (players, employees, coaches, participants, spectators) stay at home if they are ill or have any symptoms of COVID-19. Require that participants who arrive at the activity and are ill or have symptom to not participate. Promote and facilitate personal protective practices. Everyone plays a part in making outdoor recreational spaces and activities safer.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Provide guidance on site using appropriate signage and promote the use of safe personal practices including self-monitoring for symptoms before participating.

Limit the number of participants and spectators, as allowed in your jurisdiction, in outdoor spaces and recreational activities to prevent overcrowding.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Tennis NB will be limiting the number of divisions in an event and capping the number of participants in each division. Maintain gathering restriction of under 50 people using physical distancing measures.

Provide culturally appropriate and accessible signage at outdoor spaces reminding users of physical distancing requirements.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Signage will be posted at all Tennis NB events to remind everyone of physical distancing and other additional safety recommendations.

Where possible, create appropriate spacing between features in outdoor spaces where people would spend time (e.g. increase distance between picnic tables and benches). Modify outdoor spaces to promote physical distancing. Encourage the use of all available parks space, not just the most popular spaces.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Tennis NB tournament organizers will actively monitor to ensure appropriate spacing. Players will be asked to stay in parking area until they are called to play to control unnecessary gatherings. Any spectator seating will be spaced accordingly and monitored. The tournament control area, which is often an area where people tend to gather, will be separated from player/spectator area and will be configured to ensure 2 meter spacing between staff and participants.

Consider closing or modifying non-essential indoor spaces associated with the outdoor space. Restrict occupant capacity of indoor spaces such as restrooms and change rooms.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Restrict access to club house and locker rooms. Restrooms will be available with one occupant capacity. Indoor spaces not to be used for gathering of participants or any food service at Tennis NB events. Ensure restrooms are constantly monitored and cleaned regularly. For amenities that are not serviced or serviced infrequently (e.g. outhouses/latrines), provide signage indicating that it is to be used at one's own risk.

Mitigate risks from exposure to high-touch surfaces (i.e., surfaces frequently touched by others). Limit the use of shared equipment that cannot be easily cleaned between users. Remove or restrict use of common-use equipment or fixtures in outdoor settings.

TENNIS NB ACTION: All non-essential equipment including benches/seating, scorecards, squeegees etc. will be removed from the playing court.

For organized sports, implement participation policies (e.g. documenting the names of those in attendance) that can support Public Health Authority efforts to identify coaches, referees and participants should exposure to COVID-19 occur.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Tennis NB is requiring all registration for events now be done online through the Tennis NB online registration system which will provide easy access to list of participants and their contact information.

Wash or sanitize hands following play, especially following contact with shared equipment.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Tennis NB will make available hand sanitizer at the entrance/exit to the facility for use by participants.

Participants should be encouraged to change at home and come ready for practice/participation in their activity (e.g., bring their own water bottle and towel). Require that each participant consumes only their own water and refreshments.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Information will be provided to all participants in advance indicating locker rooms will not be available, food and drinks will not be provided, and any other specifics as required.

Eliminate handshake/fist-bump routines.

TENNIS NB ACTION: New tournament rules will address this typical etiquette of the games.

In the event that a participant requires first aid, consider having a family member attend to the injured. If not possible, the person providing first aid should use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including medical mask and gloves. Maintain a first aid kit stocked with PPE.

TENNIS NB ACTION: We will have first aid supplies on site at all events as well as masks and gloves in needed.

Close or restrict access to non-essential features or common areas that encourage people to gather (e.g., club houses except for washroom access, concession areas, viewing platforms on trails).

TENNIS NB ACTION: We will limit access to club houses, no food or drink will be provided, and tournament control desk will be a non-gathering area.

Stagger setting hours for different groups to reduce number of contacts.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Play will be scheduled on a rotation basis, and subsequent rotations will not begin until all matches in previous rotation are completed and players have vacated the courts.

Should users of outdoor recreational spaces wear masks?

The wearing of non-medical masks or cloth face coverings is an additional personal practice that may help to prevent the infectious respiratory droplets of an unknowingly-infected person (the wearer) from coming into contact with other people outside the home. In most circumstances non-medical masks

(NMM) or cloth face coverings are not deemed necessary in outdoor recreational spaces when physical distancing is possible and can be predictably maintained. However, use of NMM is recommended if physical distancing is not possible or is unpredictable, and local epidemiology and community transmission warrant it. In some outdoor activities, wearing a NMM may not be practical or tolerable, e.g., when playing active sports there might be a risk of poor oxygenation, easily soiled/moistened due to sweating/heavy breathing, or risk from injury if the mask is caught on equipment.

TENNIS NB ACTION: Tennis NB will have a supply of non-medical masks available for anyone that wishes to wear one and for staff if at any point physical distancing is not possible.