

Guidelines for Off-Leash Areas (OLA's) during COVID-19

Infection Prevention and Control Measures

The following mitigation guidelines will help reduce the risk of respiratory infections, including COVID-19.

Before Arrival at Off-Leash Areas

Individuals must self-screen to limit the introduction of infection:

- Prior to attending Off-Leash Areas every user must do the [self-assessment for COVID-19](#) on the Ontario Ministry of Health website and if they do not pass the assessment they should not use the Off-Leash Areas until they pass the assessment and do not have signs and symptoms of COVID-19. All users can visit the [City's website](#) to determine if further care is required and learn about assessment centres.
- All users should be aware of [signs and symptoms of COVID-19](#), including:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Muscle aches
 - Tiredness
 - Sore throat
 - Headache
 - Runny nose
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Your risk of severe disease may be higher if you have a weakened immune system. This may be the case for:
 - Seniors
 - People with chronic disease such as diabetes, cancer, heart, renal or chronic lung disease

The World Health Organization advises that symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 10 to 14 days after contracting COVID-19. Those who are infected with COVID-19 may have few or no symptoms. Hence, there is the possibility of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic spread of COVID-19.

Entrance Restrictions

- Anyone who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or has had close contact with a confirmed case cannot utilize Off-Leash Areas.

- Under advisement of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Ontario, all Clients 70+ are strongly encouraged to self-isolate.

While using Off-Leash Areas

Reduce the risk of transmission during activities:

- Stay at home when you are ill.
- Respect any provincial Emergency Orders that prohibit social gatherings of a certain size, including when at Off-Leash Areas.

Practice [physical distancing](#):

Maintain a 2 metre distance from others when at the Off-Leash Area.

Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough or sneeze into a tissue. Immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash your hands.
- If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm.
- Avoid touching your face, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Cloth masks and face coverings

Cloth masks and face covers can be used when physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

People who become **ill with COVID-19 symptoms while using Off-Leash Areas** should go home to self-isolate:

- People who become ill while at Off-Leash Areas should go home immediately, in a private vehicle if possible, and self-isolate. They should review the City of Toronto [website](#) for more information about COVID-19.
- If a user of Off-Leash Areas tests positive for COVID-19, their local Public Health Unit (Toronto Public Health for Toronto residents) will follow-up with close contacts who may include other Off-Leash Area users. Other Off-Leash Area users who came in close contact with the infected individual may be required to self-isolate.

Off-Leash Areas and Adjacent Amenities

Off-Leash Area Information

- Off-Leash Areas are not cleaned and disinfected, including but not limited to:
 - Water Fountains
 - Shade Structures/Gazebos
 - Benches and Tables
 - Fences
 - Gates
 - Message Boards
 - other apparatus
- Users are asked not to touch other individuals. This includes hand shaking, sharing of animal toys/equipment and/or food/beverages.
- Fountains and water bottle filling stations may be closed and patrons are asked to bring their own pre-filled water bottles.
- Users are asked to not loiter within the Off-Leash Area to assist in physical distancing and allow others the opportunity to utilize amenity.

Required Signage

Physical Distancing Sign will be posted.