

COVID-19 Guidance for Outdoor Playgrounds and Fitness Equipment

Owners and operators of outdoor playground and fitness equipment need to implement infection prevention and control measures to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission for users. Revised or updated guidance may be issued to further control the spread of infection or loosen restrictions. Please check our [website](#) periodically for updates.

Outdoor Playground and Fitness Equipment

- Prior to opening, inspect all equipment to verify its safety.
- Outdoor equipment does not need to be sanitized.
- Encourage participants to practice good hand hygiene. Avoid touching face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid group gatherings, and adopt strategies to encourage two metre/six foot distancing as much as possible.

Signage

Post signs in highly visible locations to remind everyone to practice preventative measures. Signs can include the following points:

- Notice that the playground and fitness equipment are not sanitized.
- Gathering restrictions and to avoid close contact, where applicable.
- [Self-Screening for COVID-19 symptoms](#), and to go home if they have symptoms.
- [Physical distancing poster](#), ground markers, or other cues to stay two metres/six feet apart when waiting to use equipment.

Modify Layouts

- Move benches to ensure they are at least two metres/six feet apart, where possible.
- Remove picnic tables from playground areas to avoid people congregating.
- Install hands-free garbage bins near the playground.

Drinking Fountains

- Water fountains may remain open. Clean and disinfect at least twice daily.
- Ensure all water systems are safe to use, if there was prolonged shutdown.
- Where possible, switch drinking water fountains to touchless or foot pedal operated.

Garbage Bins

- Garbage bins have removable linings, and are changed frequently to prevent overflow.

Washrooms

- Clean and disinfect washrooms at least twice daily.
- High-touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars, railings, door handles, bathroom surfaces should be cleaned more often.

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- Supplies of liquid soap and paper towels are routinely stocked.
- Where possible, open windows to allow for air flow and ventilation.

Playgrounds used by child care centres:

- General routine cleaning is acceptable.
- Most outdoor playgrounds do not need to be sanitized. However, child care centres that have private playgrounds may consider routine cleaning of outdoor play structures and equipment. Follow the specific guidance for [child care centres](#).
- Considerations include:
 - Clean high-touch surfaces, made of plastic or metal between groups of children.
 - Cleaning *removes* dirt and impurities, including germs, from surfaces.
 - Cleaning alone does not kill germs, but it reduces the number of germs on a surface.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces is not recommended.
 - Refer to Public Health Ontario [guidance for cleaning and disinfecting public spaces](#).
 - Ensure staff are trained on handling of cleaning chemicals and use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - Always follow the manufacture's label, and avoid mixing chemical products.

Personal measures for participants and families using playgrounds

Pre-planning and protective measures families can take to keep each other safe include:

- Teach children proper handwashing, avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, and to cover their cough.
- Monitor yourself and your child for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Stay home if you or your child is sick.
- Bring your own hand sanitizer (70-90% alcohol concentration), wipes, bottled water, sun screen and personal items.
- Keep a two metre/six feet distance from others, when possible.
- Wear a mask or face covering when it is difficult to maintain physical distancing. Do not apply a mask on children under the age of two.
- Wash hands before and after using outdoor playground.
- If the playground is busy, find another park or go back later.

More information

For more information, visit our website at www.toronto.ca/COVID19 or call us at 416-338-7600.