

BWA Communicable Disease Plan

The Communicable Disease Plan is presented below and is our official, outward facing policy. It sets the expectations of our guests prior to coming on board. Explanatory notes and best practices are provided in the subsequent sections.

This is intended to be a living document - if you have concerns or questions that are not already addressed here, please let us know so we can think about them in advance and come to a shared understanding as the season unfolds! Questions should be directed to Gill at info@bluewateradventures.ca.

Bluewater Adventures 2024 Season: Communicable Disease Plan

Introduction

This document outlines Bluewater Adventures' (BWA) policies based on guidance provided by BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), Worksafe BC, and by 3SIXTY5 Medical. Because the safety of all BWA crew and guests is of paramount concern, BWA continues to uphold safe practices, hygiene etiquette, and cleaning procedures to mitigate the spread of communicable diseases aboard our ships.

Bluewater Adventures' Communicable Diseases Plan will continue to evolve as needed. We will adhere to the BCCDC guidelines and expect that all aboard will follow safety protocols as required. Bluewater Adventures will not be held responsible for any changes made to health protocols by provincial and federal health agencies, and/or Transport Canada, and will not issue refunds for any cancellations or fees incurred due to illness, evacuations, or postponements. Travel insurance is strongly advised for all guests traveling in 2024. If our Communicable Disease Plan changes prior to boarding your trip, we will share an updated copy with you.

If you feel you may be ill with a communicable illness, consider postponing your trip out of respect for fellow passengers and the ship's crew. Illness aboard can greatly impact the trip experience for all. Guests or crew who are experiencing symptoms of a communicable disease in the days or weeks leading up to their should reach out to the office to discuss their ability to participate in the trip.

Guests who arrive to the trip with a mild illness will still be permitted to board (unless their condition is such that they cannot participate in the trip). Additional illness mitigation measures will be put in place to try and prevent the spread of illness to other guests or crew.

Bluewater Adventures strongly recommends that all travelers have up to date vaccinations. We operate in remote areas where access to urgent care is limited. By having all those onboard fully vaccinated, we hope this may prevent a serious case of illness onboard where medical attention may not be readily available.

Communicable Disease Prevention Practices

1. **Cleaning and Disinfection:** Regular cleaning and disinfection can help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces will occur daily, in line with regular practices.

2. **General Ventilation and Air Exchange:** Windows, port holes, and wheelhouse door(s) will be open when the weather and situations permit. When possible, it is highly encouraged that guests and crew spend time mingling outside & on deck.

3. **Hand Hygiene:** Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water or using an effective hand sanitizer reduces the spread of illness. Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene, especially prior to mealtimes.

4. **Respiratory Etiquette:** Crew can teach and reinforce good respiratory practices among guests including:

- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately wash your hands.
- Refrain from touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

5. **Health Awareness:** Guests and crew should not participate in a BWA trip if they are seriously ill with a communicable disease such as COVID-19, norovirus or another respiratory illness. We ask all guests and crew to do a personal health check before boarding their flights and on a daily basis during the trip. If you feel ill, please contact the BWA office or the Crew to determine the next steps. If you develop symptoms, however mild, please inform a Bluewater Adventures crew member. You will be asked to wear a medical-grade mask and be mindful during mealtimes, to keep others from becoming ill.

6. **Masks and Face Coverings:** The decision to wear a mask is a personal one, based on individual preference. Some guests and/or crew may choose to continue to wear a medical or non-medical mask/face covering throughout the day or for certain activities. The choice of any individual to choose whether they practice additional personal prevention measures will be respected.

The only times that a person must wear a mask is if they feel unwell, are exhibiting symptoms, are the travel companion of someone who is exhibiting symptoms or are caring for a person who is unwell.

Safety Protocols

Bluewater Adventures is asking all crew and guests to be mindful of activities in the week leading up to their trip. Please take caution in high density areas such as airports to mitigate the chances of being exposed to a communicable disease.

Please follow these simple suggestions:

- Strongly consider wearing a well-fitted mask in public indoor spaces.
- Follow personal hygiene practices and wash hands often.
- Monitor your health before, during and after traveling – stay home if you are feeling unwell.
- Wear a medical grade mask for the duration of your flight and in any public transport/ taxis.

Initial Screening – Prior to Boarding

Upon arrival, crew may inquire how people are feeling prior to guest/ crew boarding. If a guest or crew is exhibiting any combination of the following new or worsening symptoms (that are unrelated to seasonal allergies), they will be asked to don a medical grade mask while indoors, or while in close proximity to other people.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache
- Body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

Illness During a Trip or Before Boarding

Upon arrival to the boat, all guests and crew will undergo a simple health assessment. If someone is exhibiting symptoms of illness, further assessment will take place to understand their health status.

If a guest or crew develops symptoms of illness during a trip, or arrives to the trip with symptoms, they must advise the captain as soon as possible.

- The ill person will don a medical grade mask while indoors or while in close proximity to other people
- Whenever possible, the ill person should practice social distancing, and isolate themselves from others in order to prevent the spread of illness
- The ill person may still participate in trip activities, and crew will help them manage their symptoms with onboard medication or through consult with our on-call physician
- If the ill person is too unwell to continue with the trip, they may be evacuated to seek further medical assistance

Remaining guests and crew will be asked to self-monitor for symptoms of illness and hygiene

practices will be increased.

An onboard illness affecting multiple people may result in daily activities being altered, or the trip being cancelled or shortened. The captain is to contact the Bluewater Adventures office to discuss next steps and consult with 3SIXTY5 Medical.

COVID-19

Bluewater Adventures requires all crew to have a minimum of two COVID-19 vaccinations, and strongly recommends that crew and guests are up to date on available boosters. While Bluewater does not require that crew or guests test for COVID-19 if they have symptoms, we will have rapid antigen tests available on board. If a guest or crew arrives to the boat with mild symptoms and subsequently tests positive for COVID-19, they will be permitted to board the boat after discussing mitigation measures (as written above) with the crew.

Public health recommends using rapid antigen tests for people “with COVID-19 symptoms” only. Based on information from the BCCDC website and direct consultation with Dr Neil McLean, it is Bluewater Adventures policy to refrain from asymptomatic testing and only provide the option to test when someone has symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Regardless of the illness, if crew are unable to manage symptoms safely and effectively onboard, the person may be evacuated to have them seek further medical assistance.

Information For Crew

If a crew member loses out on contracted work dates due to an exposure to a communicable disease on, before, or during a trip then:

Prior to boarding: If a crew member contracts a communicable disease prior to their contracted dates they are likely not covered by WorkSafeBC because they did not contract the communicable disease at work. If they are not the one infected but are a crew on a trip that was canceled due to an infection prior to their trip start date, they can request to be laid off temporarily in order to collect EI.

While on contract: If a crew member tests positive for a communicable disease while working they may be eligible for Worker Compensation Benefits. An incident report would need to be filled out and submitted to WorkSafeBC as soon as possible. Wage loss benefits are paid by WorkSafe BC.