

Sorcerer Lodge COVID-19 Safety Plan

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Introduction

Sorcerer Lodge is a helicopter accessed backcountry ski touring lodge in the Selkirk mountains of British Columbia. We provide week-long active vacations off the grid.

The health and safety of our guests and employees are our main priority as we head into the winter 2021 season. Sorcerer Lodge will be employing a number of strategies to reduce the risk transmission including;

- Reducing the number of people. To increase the amount of space per person at the lodge guest numbers will be reduced from 14 to 8 and staff numbers from 5 to 3.
- Increasing the number of handwashing stations
- Reducing the number of people in a helicopter
- Staggering meal times and installing barriers.
- Increased ventilation in the lodge
- Increased sanitization procedures
- A pre trip declaration for all guest and staff.
- A zero- tolerance policy for illness- any body (either guest or staff) showing any symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and flown out at the earliest possible time.

Physical distancing will be adhered to at all times unless you come from the same household.

The following document follows the following principals in order to minimize the risk as much as possible.

- **Physical distancing:** removing the hazard from the trip or substituting the activity with a less hazardous one; for example, deciding not to engage in an activity.
- **Engineering solutions:** implementing modifications that alter the way the activity is done, including equipment, communications, and processes that reduce the exposure to risk and that allow appropriate incident response; for example, implementing radio communications.
- **Administrative decision-making:** implementing controls that alter the way the activity is run, including timing of itineraries, standard operating practices, and operational procedures; for example, implementing a policy to contract travel to a professional transportation company.
- **Using Protective Equipment:** requiring that appropriate equipment be worn or used by individuals to reduce exposure or consequence.

Communications

Before flying into the lodge it will be required that all workers and guests verify they have completed the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool or complete a pre-trip declaration before being allowed to travel to the lodge. A copy will be provided to guests in advance. We need to work together and be honest about any symptoms to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip for everybody.

Whilst at the lodge the following will be conducted:

- An in-depth briefing on the lodge-specific COVID management plan will be conducted at the beginning of the trip
- A daily safety briefing will be conducted before each ski day to remind guests of the guidelines and to confirm the absence of symptoms. Guests will be encouraged to immediately bring any symptoms to the attention of staff members

Employment Policies

All employees will report any symptoms of COVID-19 to management immediately whether they are at the lodge or at home.

- Any workers showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and flown out of the lodge at the earliest possible moment. They will be asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days.
- No employee will be allowed to work for at least 14 days after first showing symptoms.
- Staff are offered sick pay to ensure that the above conditions can be met.
- All employees will undergo a detailed training session on current safety measures in place at the lodge and will be expected to adhere to these at all times.
- No staff are allowed to work back-to-back shifts. All staff will be transferred in each week.

Transportation

Any time that people will be in close quarters has been identified as high risk. The following policies will be in place to mitigate these risks.

- Guests and staff must drive **independently** or else only with those whom they will share their accommodation
- Passenger numbers on the helicopter will be reduced to allow for physical distancing.
- All passengers will be required to wear a non-medical 3 layer mask for the entire duration of the flight
- Where possible guests will be expected to deliver their own luggage to/from the helipad.
- Only employees will load/unload the helicopter.

Guest rooms

A number of changes have been made to our guest accommodations including:

- All rooms will be maximum 2 person occupancy
- Beds in all of the rooms are arranged so that head to head they are at least 3 meters apart.
- Increased ventilation in the form of heat exchanger fans have been installed
- No individuals in a shared accommodation can be ill or meet a criterion that requires self-isolation requirements. Any individuals that become ill or require self-isolation will be immediately moved into separate facilities.
- No guests or employees will be permitted to enter any guest room that it is not their own. If it is deemed essential for staff to enter they will do so wearing a 3 layer mask and gloves

Common Areas

Our aim is to keep everybody safe while still preserving the social aspect of lodge life. The following procedures will be in effect:

- 2 metre distance will be employed at all times between guests from different households and staff at all times.
- All guests and staff will be asked to wear a 3 layer non-medical mask whilst in the common area. The only exception to this will be whilst eating.
- Guest briefings will be held outdoors where possible, or staggered to accommodate physical distancing.
- Maximum occupancy of common areas will be posted and must be adhered to by both guests and staff
- The number of chairs in the common area will be reduced.
- Increased sanitation of all high touch surfaces including door knobs

- Steam Cleaners will be used to clean cloth seats
- All sauna facilities will be closed
- Weather permitting, we will increase outdoor socializing including patio heaters and campfires.

Hygiene

Increased hygiene by everybody at the lodge will help to ensure a safe environment for everybody:

- Sorcerer will have a total of 6 hand washing basins. Hand sanitizer will also be available at several points around the lodge. Guests and staff will be expected to wash hands frequently- particularly before entering common areas and before using the drinks station.
- A shower has been installed in the entry way, this will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times a day
- If a shower or toilet stall is used by an individual in self-isolation, it will be closed to other guests and be cleaned and disinfected after use
- All common touch areas including door knobs and handles, telephones, radios, light switches, tables, chairs and washrooms will be disinfected several times per day.

Food Service

All common touch points will be eliminated as much as possible

- Lunches and field snacks will be provided to guests in a pre-packaged format
- All meals will be plated
- Staff will serve food to seated guests.
- Masks will be worn by staff while serving food to guests.
- Meal times will be staggered and guests limited to allow for 2 metre spacing between tables.
- Access to fresh water for guest's personal water containers will be via knee operated valves and preferably happen in their bedrooms.
- Condiments will be removed from table. Guests may ask for these and they will be disinfected between uses.
- Surfaces will be disinfected between guests/meal times, such as chairs, condiments, dining tables and counters

Kitchen & back of house procedures

Our guests are here for a vacation, so relax and let the staff handle it. The following procedures will be in place:

- Only designated lodge staff are allowed to do dishwashing and post meal clean ups. **No guests permitted in the kitchen**
- Only essential staff members should be permitted within the kitchen, to reduce possible contamination and to allow physical distancing measures to be upheld
- Maximum kitchen occupancy from non-household members is 1.
- Staff will be allocated their own gloves to be used whilst in the kitchen. Sharing of gloves is prohibited.

Equipment

Contact with another individual's personal items poses risk of indirect transfer of the virus. All personal items should be kept in locations where there is no risk of incidental contact by other workers or lodge guests.

- Where practicable, each worker and guest should utilize only their own safety equipment or other gear throughout the duration of the trip to minimize contact spread of COVID-19
- Mobile phones, water bottles, coffee mugs, headlamps, reading materials, and other personal items may have droplets on them and could transmit infection to another worker or lodge guest. These items must not be left in common areas.
- Personal gear and clothing, including Gore-Tex outer layers, insulating layers, leather gloves, backpacks, and ski boots may have droplets on them as a result of use and could transmit infection to another worker or lodge guests. All personal gear will be stored in guest and staff rooms. A propane heater has been installed to ensure gear will dry.
- Guests and staff will be handed a radio to use for the week. It will be charged in their bedroom.
- Shovels for employee use will be colour coded and used only by one employee. They will be sanitized when the employee's shift is over.

Activities

Luckily we feel that ski touring is already set up for social distancing. The following will be adhered to at all times

- Physical distancing of 2m between all workers and guests should be maintained during guided field activities
- Particular attention should be paid to situations where physical distancing would not be a traditional part of the guide activity, including: regrouping, coaching of technical sections of trail, gear checks, short roping and other mountaineering applications
- Care should be taken to avoid following too closely behind one another when walking and hiking. Observe increased physical distancing guidelines to avoid the chance of acquiring droplets that may have become entrained in the wake or slipstream behind a fellow hiker
- If physical distancing cannot be safely maintained in the field (e.g. guide administering first aid) then all involved individuals (guides and guests) should wear Protective Equipment (gloves and non-medical mask)

Managing Covid-19 Symptoms

Any guest or worker that becomes ill while at the lodge will be flown out at the earliest possible time.

- If same day evacuation is not possible, they will be moved into isolation at the lodge until a flight can be arranged
- Anybody showing symptoms will be designated an outhouse to use. This will be off limits to the remaining guests/staff at the lodge. After Evacuation it will be cleaned and sanitized.
- If you have not traveled outside Canada you are required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of any Covid-19 symptoms. You may return to your regular activities when;
 - At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms started, AND;

- Your fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g. Tylenol, Advil), AND You are better (improvement in runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue)

Non compliance

Any guest or staff member found to be not adhering to the rules will be flown out of the lodge as soon as possible at their own expense.