



March 11, 2020

MEMORANDUM: COVID-19

The purpose of this communication is to provide information and guidance regarding the concerns associated with COVID-19.

The health and safety for all participants in the BC Lacrosse community is of the utmost importance for the BC Lacrosse Association and this is central to any decision-making process. In the first instance, all involved in our sport should take direction from the appropriate health authorities, including the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Ministry of Health.

BC Lacrosse Board and Staff are monitoring the COVID-19 situation. At this time, the Canadian Lacrosse Association has not provided notification or directive on the cancellation of lacrosse activity within Canada, nor has there been any limitations set.

Teams should be aware of the travel advisories prepared by the Government of Canada and make their decision to travel on the most recent information before they depart. For upcoming travel, consult the Travel Advice and Advisories site for destination-specific travel information that provides important advice to help you make informed decisions regarding travel.

<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>

BC Demographic. British Columbia is a large and diverse province and, therefore, so too is the lacrosse community that we support. As of March 9, 2020, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Canada is 77. BC has a small number of cases (32) having been reported in certain communities. Not all regions and communities have been impacted; therefore, at this time, BC Lacrosse states there is no need to restrict lacrosse related activities for players and team officials, or to cancel games, practices and tournaments.

However, considering the current and evolving situation, concerned BCLA members and affiliated clubs may institute no pre/post-match handshakes during this time and/or amend their programming activity if they wish to mitigate concerns within their regions/locations.

When travelling to sporting events, BC Lacrosse recommends that you check for up-to-date travel advisories from the Government of Canada at Government of Canada COVID-19 Travel Advice - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>

Concerned Participants. BC Lacrosse understands that participants (and parents/guardians of participants) may have concerns with participating in lacrosse during this time. We strongly recommend that a common sense approach be taken and if you have individual concerns, please speak to your local team and club staff and remove yourself and/or your child from lacrosse activity until you are comfortable to return to play.

We know that the teams, associations and leagues will understand the concerns raised and will work with their members to ensure their concerns are handled appropriately.

As a reminder, BC Lacrosse would like to share the BC Centre for Disease Control recommendations for reducing the risk of exposure to novel coronavirus:

- Wash your hands frequently (it is the single most effective way of reducing infection spread).
- Practice other good hygiene habits: do not touch your face/eyes/mouth with your hands and cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough (ideally with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow).
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched workspace surfaces.
- Maintain good general health (eat a balanced diet, get enough sleep, exercise in moderation).
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Contact 8-1-1 (HealthLink BC) or your health care provider for questions about your personal health situation.

Further information about novel coronavirus is available on the [BC Centre for Disease Control website](http://www.bccdc.ca/): <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

Addition Resources:

Memo from the Sport Medicine Advisory Committee comprised of Chief Medical Officers from the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Canadian Paralympic Committee, and the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Sport Institute Network (COPSIN). It is meant to guide National Sporting Organizations (NSOs) in decision-making with respect to travel to competitions within and outside Canada. Information has been obtained from the World Health Organization, Government of Canada and Australian Institute of Sports websites. This advisory will be updated regularly and distributed to NSOs and other high-performance sport partners.

[http://www.bclacrosse.com/Risk%20Management/SMAC Advisory on COVID 19 2020 03 02_EN.pdf](http://www.bclacrosse.com/Risk%20Management/SMAC_Advisory_on_COVID_19_2020_03_02_EN.pdf)

<http://www.bclacrosse.com/Risk%20Management/Information%20regarding%20the%20Coronavirus%20from%20Canadian%20Sport%20Institute%20Pacific.pdf>

The latest WHO statements on Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak can be found at [WHO website](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/news) - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/news>.