



*International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation*

# **COVID-19 PREVENTION GUIDELINES**

VERSION 1.0  
March 2021

The following guidelines have been issued by the [International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation \(IWWF\)](#) using the collective feedback of different stakeholders in towed water sports and after review by the IWWF's [Medical Committee](#) and IWWF Sport Division Councils.

**These guidelines provide basic advice that could be superseded by country, regional or local regulations.** In some cases, approval by the local authorities is required before any activity can take place. In this document, an event is defined as any activity taking place on the water and where more than 5 people are involved.

The purpose of this document is to provide athletes, coaches, technical officials and event organizers with best practices and recommendations regarding return to towed water sports activities.

The IWWF is putting the health and safety of all athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials and organising committee staff first. Within these guidelines, you will find recommendations that may be applied to any event taking place after the ban on sporting events is lifted to the extent that they are deemed appropriate by the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the local authorities.

The guidelines will be updated continuously according to the latest information from the World Health Organization (WHO) and publications that are released on this topic. The guidelines will be published on the IWWF's Website <https://iwwf.sport/>.

**While the advice given in these guidelines has been developed using the best information available, it is intended purely as guidance to be followed at the user's own risk.**

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## 1. GENERAL

COVID-19 continues to cause significant challenges, and the organisers of sport events will be asked to implement all possible measures for respecting the social distancing and hygiene requirements.

Due to their nature, towed water sports activities are considered low risk for COVID-19 transmission as they are practiced in open air and on the water which is not known to transmit the virus, and there is only one athlete participating at any one time in most cases.

The IWWF advises that, during the evolving COVID-19 outbreak, effective protection of the health and safety of everyone involved in the sport must remain a priority. Event organisers must put in place preventive measures to stop the transmission of infection and mitigation measures to minimise the risk of infection.

Events should be run in a safe way for the sake of athletes, technical officials, event organisers, and spectators. The IWWF follows the recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO).

The IWWF fully respects and supports the initiatives of the LOCs and each country's local and state government guidelines.

## 2. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

- To reduce the general risk of transmission, the IWWF strongly recommends the following:
  - Aim to keep at least two metres distance from other people.
  - Athletes, volunteers, officials, and other accredited persons who are in contact with athletes (e.g., registration, starting dock, safety boats, etc.) should wear masks or face coverings.
  - **It is advised that athletes should not wear a mask while engaging in a towed water sports activity**
  - Frequent hand washing using soap and hot water or alcohol-based (at least 65–70%) hand rub for 20 seconds.
  - People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance of at least one metre, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).
  - Do not shake hands or hug.
  - Avoid touching mouth, nose or eyes.
  - Sharing of any equipment should be avoided. Athletes need to have their own equipment including tow-handles. There will also be no rental equipment on site to avoid contact cross infection.
- Anyone who feels unwell (i.e., fever, cough, etc.) must stay at home and keep away from any event until symptoms resolve themselves.
- In case of symptoms suggestive of acute respiratory illness, medical attention must be sought.
- Public health authorities will provide any travellers with all necessary information to reduce the general risk of acute infections.

### 3. EVENT ORGANISER RESPONSIBILITY

- The IWWF strongly recommends that the organiser assess any event using the WHO's Risk Assessment and Mitigation Checklist for Mass Gatherings in the context of COVID-19 (mandatory for all IWWF events). The WHO Generic Risk Assessment Excel file is available on the [WHO's web site](#).
- **The IWWF recommends that an event should only be conducted if it falls in a Very Low or Low risk category.**
- **The IWWF requests all the organisers to familiarise themselves with WHO's mass gathering technical guidance and tools:**
  - [Country & Technical Guidance - Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
  - [Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings during COVID-19](#)
  - [World Health Organization's guidelines on sporting events/mass gatherings](#)
  - [Generic Risk Assessment and Mitigation Checklist](#)
  - [International Traveling Health Advice](#)
  - [Advice on Use of masks / face coverings](#)
- The total number of people who can be on site must be defined. This number depends on the site as the available space usually limits the number of people.
- The number of visitors to the event venue must be limited at any time, and visitors must be informed that only limited capacity is available in order to ensure social distancing and hygiene rules. All visitors should be registered with a verified email address and mobile phone number for the sake of contact tracing in the event of infection.
- Organizers should refrain from selling food or beverages.
- Any payment process should also be made in advance. In the case where payment is required on site, a cashless system is preferred, and the card device should be easily accessible.
- **The IWWF recommends that anyone involved with the event over 65 years of age and any person with compromised health conditions take greater preventive measures or even refrain from participating in the event.**

### 4. PARTICIPANTS' HEALTH SCREENING

(ATHLETES, COACHES, OFFICIALS, LOC STAFF, ALL ACCREDITED CLIENTS)

- **The IWWF strongly recommends that all athletes, coaches, officials, staff and all accredited person should fill in an Event Questionnaire upon arrival to the venue. The questionnaire can be found in Appendix 4.**
- The temperature of all participants and attendees should be taken each day upon arrival. Anyone with 38 degree centigrade or above temperature should be asked to leave.
- Pre-Event Health Checks for all athletes and staff are highly encouraged to ensure exclusion of those with potential additional risks.

## 5. RISK COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- It is important that all the provisions in place are communicated clearly to all participants and spectators in advance using all possible communication channels (i.e., website and social media).
- Display health advisories reminding and encouraging everyone to maintain high levels of personal hygiene, including advice on hand washing and minimising physical contact.
- Brief everyone on the protocols for infection prevention and control measures and on where to find more information.

## 6. VENUE FACILITIES

- **The IWWF makes the following Medical Provisions Recommendations:**
  - Daily health screening of all staff, ie. temperature testing
  - Disinfectant dispensers and soap should be distributed across the entire area with appropriate signage. Cleaning and disinfection plans should be displayed in the main entrance and all common areas listing the preventative measures being taken.
  - Ensure availability of thermometers (e.g., infrared).
  - Establish isolation rooms for any persons who become ill or are suspected to be ill so that they can be initially assessed.
  - Determine with the local health authorities where an individual can be cared for and isolated and establish predetermined emergency contacts with the local authorities.
  - Establish a policy on how all involved parties will be notified of a COVID 19 situation.
- All working spaces and provided facilities must be organised in a way that physical separation (at least 2 metres) of athletes, officials, spectators, and support staff is respected. Spectators should follow the social distancing rules requested by the public health authorities of the specific country where the event is taking place. Ideally (where practical), most people should not require any access to building interiors.
- In all the key zones (athletes' area, working spaces), hand washing facilities and disinfectant wipes must be provided.
- It is important that the entire site is always thoroughly cleaned. All seating and reclining areas as well as the sanitary facilities must be cleaned and disinfected daily. All door and other handle surfaces must be disinfected at regular, frequent intervals with a cloth wipe.
- Room doors must remain open if possible and, if not, should be managed by volunteers to prevent different people from touching the door handles before they are disinfected.
- Use of changing rooms and showers should be stopped. In some areas, outdoor changing facilities can be created. In such cases, collective changing rooms must be converted into individual changing rooms.
- Closed bins for safe disposal of hygienic materials (e.g. tissues, towels, sanitary products) in all rooms must be provided.
- **The IWWF recommends the following Competition Logistics:**
  - Have two docks, a start dock and one for athletes to return to after competing.
  - Hand sanitizers should be dispersed throughout the event venue, on starting docks and in bathrooms, offices, towers, boats, etc.

## 7. REGISTRATION

- **The IWWF recommends that the number of people inside any area is restricted to ensure that proper physical separation and safe distancing is maintained.**

## 8. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

- Any ceremonies should not be planned so as to minimise the opportunities of mass gatherings in small spaces. For any other activities with smaller groups, the risk should be assessed, and a decision should be taken by the organiser and the local authorities.
- **The IWWF strongly recommends that most social events be suspended so that the focus is placed on training and healthy exercise.**

## 9. SPECTATORS

- Social distancing should be respected in all the areas where spectators are located.
- All the flows within the venue must be one-directional.
- If seating is provided, a 2-metre distance between the seats should be planned.

## 10. OFFICIAL and SUPPORT STAFF

- The IWWF will review and, if possible, optimise the size of the technical officials' team and number of staff traveling to an event.
- Accommodation arrangements should take social distancing into account.

## 11. MEDAL CEREMONIES

- **The need for holding a medal ceremony must be assessed carefully. If it is decided that one is needed the following is recommended:**
- The podium should provide a distance of two metres between the medalists.
- Athletes will get on the podium and collect their medals from the medal carrier alone. No flowers and champagne are allowed. The athletes are advised to wear masks/mouth-nose face coverings and rubber/disposable gloves during this process.
- For the Team Overall events, only a team representative will be invited to the ceremonies, representing the whole team.
- Only one VIP will be allowed on the stage for each ceremony and is asked not to come in contact with the athletes. Thus, wearing a mask and rubber/disposable gloves is strongly recommended.
- Only one volunteer is involved with the ceremonies to prepare the trophies on separate trays for each athlete. The volunteer is strongly recommended to wear rubber/disposable gloves and a mask.
- The volunteer must disinfect the trays between podium medal presentations.
- Hand shaking or hugs between the athletes must be avoided at all times.
- The VIP and athletes may remove their masks during the photo at the end of the ceremonies.

## 12. REFERENCES

- [World Health Organisation](#)
- [IWWF Barefoot Ski Council](#)
- [IWWF Cable Ski Council](#)
- [IWWF Cable Wakeboard Council](#)
- [IWWF Disabled Ski Council](#)
- [IWWF Wakeboard Council](#)
- [IWWF Waterski Council](#)
- [IWWF Wakesurf Committee](#)
- [USA Water Ski & Wake Sports](#)

## 13. APPENDIX 1 - Guidelines for Towed Water Sports Events

The following are a list of guidelines that can be used if hosting a competitive event. Please note that your respective local government guidelines are what need to be followed first and foremost.

### GENERAL EVENT GUIDELINES

- Masks must be worn at all times on site with the exception of athletes entering the starting dock to engage in towed water sport activity
- Riders/Skiers are advised not to speak while queuing on the dock, ie cable wakeboarders/skiers
- At the start dock, it is recommended to have not more than 2 persons which includes the dock starter.
- Dock starters should be at least 2 metres away or athletes can dock start themselves
- Scoring should take place outdoors if possible.
- If scoring is indoors, there should only be one scorer in the scoring area at any one time or the distance between the scorers must be 1 metre and they should be wearing a mask.
- Masks or face coverings should be worn.
- Hand sanitizers should be dispersed throughout the event venue, on starting docks and in bathrooms, offices, towers, boats, etc.

### TOW BOAT GUIDELINES

- There must be a minimum distance of 1 metre between drivers and any other person. This distance must be marked on board. If it is not possible, a plexi-glass/polycarbonate pane must separate the driver and observer. Use weights to aid in balancing boats.
- Boat judge/driver teams should be established so that the same pairs of officials are always in the boat together, minimizing the number of people with whom each official is in contact.
- The boat driver, judge and any passenger (pin person, etc.) should wear masks or face coverings.
- The boat (all areas of contact) should be cleaned by the driver when there is a change of crew.

### WATERSKI SLALOM GUIDELINES

- Technical officials on a tower should be limited to one person at a time. If more than 1 technical official is required, they should be separated by a distance of 2 metres or be family members.

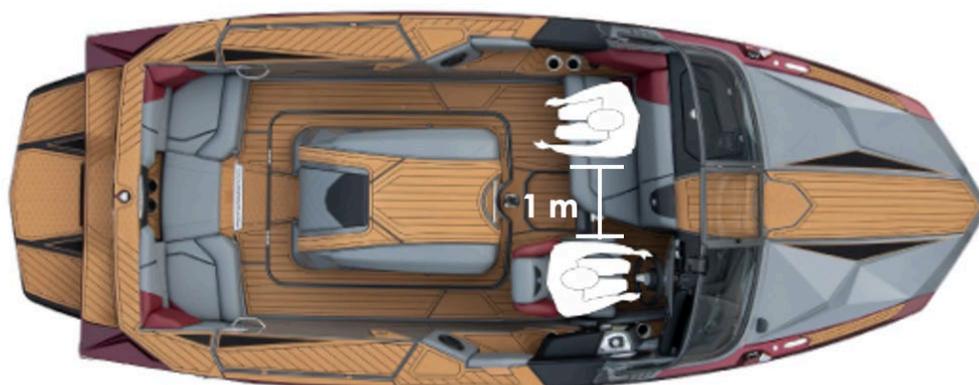
### WATERSKI TRICK GUIDELINES

- Where physical distancing is challenging, for example, with the boat driver and pin person in tricks, all efforts should be made to keep the interaction time as short as possible. The pin person should not enter the boat until just before the skier run is to start and should exit the boat immediately upon return to the dock. Both the driver and pin person should wear masks or face coverings.
- Judges should be 2 metres apart and use of secretaries (unless family members) should be avoided. Video cameras should be operated remotely, so that a camera person in the boat is not required. For slalom and jump, perhaps boat judge/driver teams should be established, so that the same pairs of officials are always in the boat together, minimizing the number of people with whom each official is in contact.

### WATERSKI JUMP GUIDELINES

- Boat judge/driver teams should be established, so that the same pairs of officials are always in the boat together, minimizing the number of people with whom each official is in contact, or assign family members to these positions.
- Boat judges must sit to the far right of the driver as opposed to in the middle seat. Please have weights to aid in balancing boats.
- Only one video operator in jump.

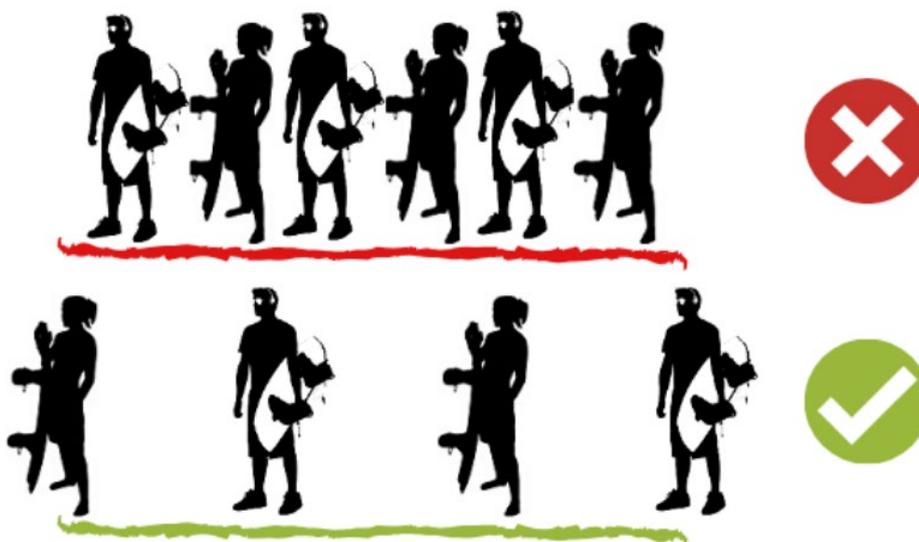
Example: Waterski Boat



*There must be a minimum distance of 1 metre between drivers and any other person*

### CABLE WAKEBOARD / SKI GUIDELINES

- Mandatory hand disinfection before entering the start area.
- Disinfection of handles by the operator after every rider.
- If any rental equipment (boards, bindings, life vests, helmets) is to be used, it must be sanitized/disinfected before and after every use.
- Riders/skiers should not return to the start dock but to a separate exit point.



## **BAREFOOT GUIDELINES**

### Equipment

- Each tournament is to use a minimum of 2 x video cameras. The cameras are to be wiped down and disinfected after use and prior to use by the new videographer.
- Each of the boats used are to be wiped down at each change of boat crew - seats, handles, centre pole, steering wheel, accelerator, line & rope attachment points.
- Only 1 official is to handle ropes in the boat during competition.
- Re-fuelling – the same person is to conduct re-fuelling of the boat and handling of fuel drums after the handles of drums and fuel caps have been sanitised.

### Judging/Scoring Guidelines

- Boat judge/driver teams should be established so that the same pairs of officials are always in the boat together, minimizing the number of people each official is in contact with. Dependant on the tournament boat, the seating arrangement and location of each of the officials must be such that there is no way that each official can breathe, cough or touch another official. If possible, family members should be assigned in pairs.
- Scoring should take place outside if possible. Only 1 scorer in the trailer at a time. All officials are to sanitise before and after handling score sheets.
- Score sheets are to be scanned for review by skiers and teams.
- When there is a protest, video review on shore by three judges, one at a time
- Where physical distancing is challenging, all efforts should be made to keep the interaction time as short as possible and everyone should sanitise as a precaution before and after

## **DISABLED SKI GUIDELINES**

Sharing of any equipment should be avoided. Skiers need to have their own equipment including tow handle. It is recommended that where this is not possible it is advised to disinfect the handle after each use.

### Disabled Specific

Disabled skiing will follow the waterski guidelines for skiers and officials. Where physical distancing is challenging, for example with the boat driver and guide/pin person in tricks, all efforts should be made to keep the interaction time as short as possible. The guide/pin person should not enter the boat until just before the skier run is to start and should exit the boat immediately upon return to the dock. Both the driver and guide/pin person should wear masks or face coverings.

### Visual Impaired Skiers - Audio Slalom

No guide is allowed in the boat for audio slalom. The judge in the boat will signal the skier to go to the left side of the left wake when approaching the course. Signals to the skier should be done using a horn or tapping the rope; a whistle should not be used. Only the judge can touch / operate the CAS system. The judge must ensure the system is operated in the same way for all skiers, making it clear when signals will be made to ensure clarity and safety.

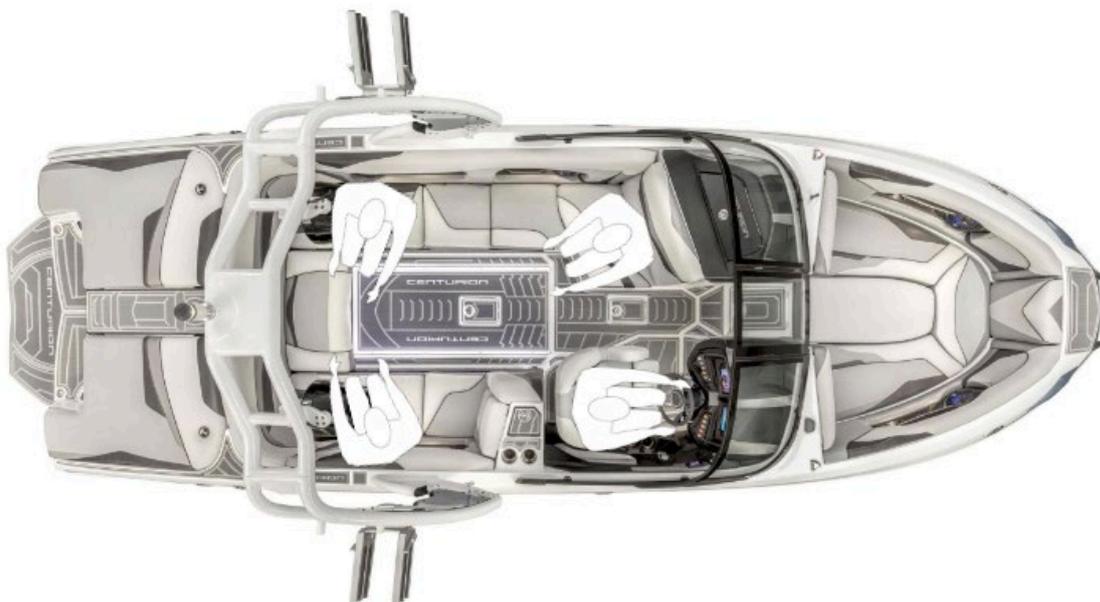
### Jump

Contact between the skier and guide should be kept to a minimum, however the safety of the skier should always remain the priority. Ideally the guide will be the person the skier trains with and part of the skier's contact group. It is recommended that where possible the guide is only guiding one skier.

## WAKEBOARD GUIDELINES

- Social distancing will be challenging when judging in the boat. The space should be maximised with only the minimum number of people in the boat at all times. There will be a driver and 3 judges in the boat. One of the judges should perform the duties of rope assistant.
- No cameramen may be permitted in the boat. A camera may be mounted to the tower to facilitate photography/ streaming/ filming from the boat
- Boat judge teams of 3 should be established to maintain the same team of officials in the boat together. This will minimise the contact between different officials. Boat judges should sit at least one metre away from each other and from the boat driver. One judge should sit in the passenger seat, on the opposite side from the driver, and two other judges in the back, one on each side of the boat. Additional weights should be available to adjust the weight distribution in the boat where necessary.
- All officials in the boat should wear face coverings at all times. Mandatory hand sanitiser must be used on entering the dock by all officials and riders.
- Hand sanitiser should be in the boat at all times and used by judges and driver on entering and leaving the boat. The Rope Assistant on the dock must wear face covering and gloves and/or must use the hand sanitiser after touching the handle/ line on each occasion.
- The number of riders on the dock should be minimised and 2 metres social distancing should be maintained at all times.
- The Dock Starters must wear gloves and face covering and must enforce social distancing at the start dock. Handles and ropes should be disinfected before the rope is thrown to the boat and after the rider has completed his/her pass, before leaving the finish dock. The rope can be sanitised by use of anti-bacterial wipes at the start dock or by dipping in a bucket of anti-bacterial solution located at the dock.
- A start dock and a finish dock must be available to manage the start and end of the pass and maintain separation of the riders/ minimise numbers on the dock.

Example: Wakeboard Boat



*One judge should sit in the passenger seat, on the opposite side from the driver, and two other judges in the back, one on each side of the boat*

## **WAKESURF GUIDELINES**

- No other people apart from the boat driver and 3 boat judges are allowed in the boat. Boat judges should sit at least one metre away from each other and from the boat driver and they should use face masks/covers at all time.
- No cameramen may be permitted in the boat. A camera may be mounted to the tower to facilitate photography/ streaming/ filming from the boat
- The tow handle, for starts, should be sanitized before and after each rider by one of the judges in the boat between riders.
- Only the dock starter and the rider, whose turn it is to start, are permitted on the starting dock.
- The scorer will personally, or with the help of one dedicated person, should collect scoring sheets from the boat judges.
- Interaction between judges and team captains and/or riders should be conducted in an open area, with safe distancing and wearing of masks.

## **SAFETY CREW GUIDELINES**

- All efforts should be made to make sure safety interaction occurs one-on-one as opposed to involving a group of people.
- Safety personnel should wear masks.
- Safety boats should be used instead of shore-based swimmers. Swimmers from the shore would not be able to wear a face mask for their protection. A safety crew in a boat would be better able to protect themselves.
- Jetskis should not be used for pick-up's due to inability to exercise social distancing.
- In the case of an emergency only the person in the boat, or the 2 people on the bank for jump may assist. If contact is made it should be kept to a minimum and scrubbed immediately afterwards. If mouth to mouth or an ambulance is called, the people assisting must remove themselves from any further proceedings until they have been checked.

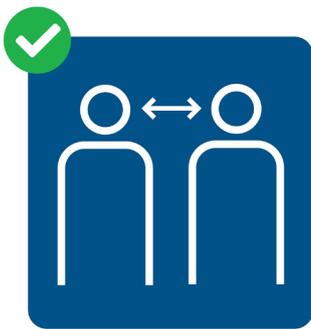
## **COMMENTATOR GUIDELINES**

- Only one (1) commentator on duty at a time.
- Microphones should be sanitized before use.
- Commentator should periodically remind participants about social distancing.

## 14. APPENDIX 2 - Basic Preventions



**KEEP YOUR MASK ON AT ALL TIMES EXCEPT WHEN YOU ARE ENGAGING IN TOWED WATER SPORTS**



**KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**



**WASH YOUR HANDS**



**DO NOT SHAKE HANDS**



**COUGH OR SNEEZE IN A TISSUE OR YOUR ELBOW AND AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE**

We appeal to all everyone to adhere to the following:

- Avoid contact with people and maintain social distancing (minimum 2 metres away).
- Avoid shaking hands.
- Practice frequent handwashing especially after direct contact with ill people or the environment.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing and wash hands immediately after.
- Designated areas to be cleaned continuously.
- Report to the relevant health practitioners if/when you are feeling ill.

## 15. APPENDIX 3 - Covid-19 Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhoea

**This list does not include all possible symptoms. This list will continue to be updated as we learn more about COVID-19.**

### WHEN TO SEEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION

Look for emergency warning signs\* for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to awaken or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

\*The above does not list all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you. Call for an ambulance or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a new disease, and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
  - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
  - People who have serious heart conditions
  - People who are immunocompromised
  - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
  - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
  - People with diabetes
  - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
  - People with liver disease

## 16. APPENDIX 4 - Event Questionnaire



<b>Name</b>		
<b>Address (street details)</b>		
<b>Telephone Number</b>		
<b>E-Mail Address</b>		
<b>Places you visited in last 14 days</b>		
<b>QUESTION - Within the past 14 days, have you...</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Have you been exposed to someone being tested for COVID-19 or who has symptoms compatible with COVID-19?		
Have you been in close contact with anyone who has travelled in the last 14 days?		
Have you been in quarantine?		
Are you over 65 years of age?		
Do you have new or worsening onset of any of the following symptoms?		
• Fever or Chills		
• Cough		
• Fatigue		
• Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing		
• Sore Throat		
• Congestion or Runny Nose		
• Chest Pain		
• Headache		
• Nausea/Vomiting		
• Muscle or Body Aches		
• Diarrhoea		
• Loss of Taste or Smell		
I am following recommended guidelines as much as possible: practicing social distancing, trying to maintain separation of 2 metres from others, and otherwise limiting my exposure to the coronavirus.		

**For Minors:**

Print Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adults:**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Participant or Parent/Guardian  
for minors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed