

Last Updated: May 22, 2020

Member Update: COVID-19 (coronavirus)

Dear Members,

Tourism Whistler remains committed to keeping you informed as the situation with COVID-19 evolves. New information, updates and resources are detailed below.

Protocols for Returning to Safe Operation

This week we entered Phase 2 of [BC's Restart Plan](#) and businesses across the province have started to resume operations. As Whistler progressively reopens and we work towards our "new normal" it is critical that all Whistler businesses take a proactive approach to ensuring all required safety practices are in place before reopening, in order to manage risk – both for the community and visitors alike.

The Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) has taken the lead on collecting and communicating general COVID-19 guidance and best practices for all Whistler businesses to follow as they plan to resume operation. This includes information and restart plans created by [government officials](#) and various sector associations.

All Members are encouraged to review the [COVID-19 business best practices](#) resources available on the RMOW's website.

More information is available at whistler.ca/SafeRestart.

Tourism Whistler Annual General Meeting & All Member COVID-19 Update

Tourism Whistler's 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be hosted electronically this year due to COVID-19 precautions on Thursday May 28 from 2PM – 2:30PM. During the AGM, Tourism Whistler will review highlights from 2019 and announce the results of the Election of Directors. Following the AGM, Tourism Whistler will host an All Member COVID-19 Update from 2:30PM – 4PM where research insights and business recovery strategies will be discussed.

To RSVP, review the 2019 Annual Report and learn more about the Annual General Meeting, please visit: members.whistler.com/agm.

Canada-US Border Closure Extended

The Canada/US border closure agreement has been extended for another 30 days. Under the agreement, the border remains closed to non-essential travel and recreational visits until at least June 21, 2020. Details are available at Canada.ca.

Whistler Parks & Trails Update

Parks in Whistler have re-opened for public use, but select amenities, including playgrounds, remain closed. Residents who choose to visit Whistler's parks are reminded to stay safe, stay local, and practice physical distancing.

Many of Whistler's off-road recreational trails are free of snow and open for public use. Trail users are reminded to stay at least two metres from others, not to recreate in groups, and to ride and hike within your ability.

Visit whistler.ca/parks and whistler.ca/trails for details.

Provincial Campsites Reserved for BC Residents This Summer

BC Parks has announced preferential access to provincial campgrounds and backcountry camping sites will be given to BC residents for the 2020 camping season. Reservations made by non-BC residents will be subject to immediate cancellation. This policy has been implemented to ensure BC residents have priority access to provincial campsites during a summer when they are being encouraged not to travel outside of the province. Visit DiscoverCamping.ca for details.

Recommended Key Messaging

At this time, Tourism Whistler recommends the following key messaging:

- Provincial health authorities continue to recommend against non-essential personal travel at this time, but we look forward to welcoming our guests back to Whistler soon.
- Please continue to follow the recommendations of health authorities to keep yourself and other safe – wash your hands regularly, practice social distancing, and stay home if you are feeling unwell.
- COVID-19 information and resources for travellers is available at whistler.com/covid.
- Anyone with questions related to COVID-19 or public health in Whistler should consult Vancouver Coastal Health, the health authority for our region.

Additional COVID-19 Information & Resources

- Vancouver Coastal Health - <http://www.vch.ca/about-us/news/vancouver-coastal-health-statement-on-coronavirus>
- BC Centre for Disease Control - [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))

- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>
- BC Restart Plan – www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc
- Resort Municipality of Whistler - <https://www.whistler.ca/services/emergency/covid-19-coronavirus>
- Whistler Chamber of Commerce - <https://www.whistlerchamber.com/covid-19-guidance-and-resources-for-whistler-businesses/>
- Destination BC - <https://www.destinationbc.ca/news/coronavirus-update/>
- Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan - canada.ca/covid-19
- BC’s Response to COVID-19 - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

Additional questions can be directed to membercommunications@tourismwhistler.com.