

1.4 FOCUS & CONSIDERATIONS FOR TRAIL OPERATORS

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, trail operators should take deliberate steps to:



1. Manage visitation on their trails to minimize the potential for direct transmission and infection between visitors.



2. Manage trail amenities and infrastructure to minimize the potential for indirect transmission and infection.



3. Ensure trail crew members (volunteer and staff) are protected from infection and transmission of COVID-19.

Trail operators should also consider the following when determining how they will manage their trails during the pandemic:

- Host community consultations about non-local visitation to the community,
- Consider contacting their local government to discuss operations of their trail,
- Potential for unintended consequences as management actions are taken on the trail,
- Lost persons, injuries & rescues that require demands on rescuers where physical distancing is not possible,
- Wildland fires and demands on firefighters where physical distancing is not possible,
- Increasing environmental damage and waste management demands as visitation increases while trail operator capacity is constrained,
- Potential impacts to the trail brand and reputation if visitors do not feel safe and / or are not confident in the measures the trail operator is taking, and
- Equity of access to trails as the equitability of access varies considerably across the country with many Canadians experiencing different types of disadvantages.