

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Outdoor Playgrounds

Community Use of Outdoor Playgrounds and Benches

July 14, 2020

Key Points

- Outdoor playgrounds are permitted to reopen as part of the provincial stage 3 [reopening plan](#)
- Southwestern Public Health will enter stage 3 on [Friday July 17th, 2020](#)
- Outdoor playgrounds are a safe and affordable form of recreation for kids and families to enjoy
- When visiting playgrounds remember to keep a physical distance of two meters from people outside your household or social circle
- Park users are responsible for practicing good [hand hygiene](#) before and after park use

Guidance

Access to affordable recreation is an important indicator of quality of life and can help children and families achieve the recommended amount of [physical activity](#) required to attain optimal health.

Parents and caregivers supervising children at the playground should practice [hand hygiene](#) and ensure the children they are responsible for do not touch their eyes, nose, or mouth while at the playground. It is a good idea to bring hand sanitizer with you to the playground as washrooms may or may not be open and/or supplied with soap. Please be aware that playground equipment is not routinely cleaned or disinfected by municipalities. Parents and caregivers may wish to bring their own disinfectant wipes, should they desire to sanitize the equipment prior to use. Respect any directions on signage posted.

Everyone who visits the playground should practice [physical distancing](#) with other people who are not from their household or social circle. Be mindful of how busy or crowded the playground is at all times. If there are plenty of other children playing on the equipment when you arrive, consider returning later on when the playground is less busy, or play an outdoor game next to the playground until fewer children are present. This will reduce the level of difficulty adhering to physical distancing with others present.

Park benches can be used safely by one person or by members of the same household or social circle.

No person who feels unwell or has [symptoms](#) associated with COVID-19 should be at the playground.