

Yukon Parks COVID-19 Operating Plan Summary 2021

Overall plan

Introduction

The Government of Yukon operates 42 road-accessible campgrounds within territorial parks. This operating plan is based on the successful 2020 operating plan. The 2020 camping season had no known COVID-19 transmissions in our territorial parks and no known job-related staff infections.

Direction on opening

1. Road-accessible campgrounds and day-use recreation sites are open as of May 1, 2021, subject to site conditions.
 - a. All campground facilities will be open (see Appendix A). Communication products (e.g., signage, brochures, website) will instruct people to use these facilities in compliance with Yukon's public health orders and the Chief Medical Officer of Health's directions.
 - b. No one can self-isolate in a territorial park or campground.
 - c. People who are required under CEMA to travel through Yukon within 24 hours will be prohibited from using Yukon government campgrounds.
 - i. This applies to campgrounds only. Recreation sites are often part of highway rest areas and will remain open for all users.
 - ii. All other people who meet the conditions for entry to Yukon, and are not required to self-isolate, are welcome to use territorial parks and campgrounds.
 - d. Parks staff will not sell permits or handle cash in campgrounds. Yukon residents can purchase an annual camping permit online and anyone can purchase a camping permit in our campgrounds, using a self-service option. As well, Daily Pre-paid Camping Permits will be available from vendors, but are not to be sold to people who are prohibited from using campgrounds (see 1b).
2. The Tombstone Interpretive Centre will open on May 1, 2021 and be subject to general orders and directions for public spaces, including the Masks in Indoor Public Spaces (COVID-19) order.
3. We will offer regular in-person interpretive activities.
4. Backcountry Camping Facilities
 - a. Grizzly, Talus and Divide Lakes campgrounds in Tombstone Territorial Park will open on June 26, 2021, subject to site conditions.

- b. The Government of Yukon (YG) maintains four backcountry campgrounds and two day-use recreation areas on the Thirtymile section of the Yukon River. All six of these sites will be open this summer.
5. Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk Park is normally accessed by staff and visitors through the NWT. Operations and visitation will be determined by travel restrictions in place between Yukon and the NWT at the time of park opening.
6. [Park Permits](#) are required for special events, group use and commercial activities, among other activities. Park Permit applications will be reviewed and, when appropriate, issued in 2021.
7. Enforcement
 - a. No changes in CEMA directions or orders are anticipated for the 2021 operating season.
 - b. Park Officers will retain their designation as CEMA officers for compliance.
 - c. Parks Officers may refer CEMA enforcement investigations to the CEMA enforcement unit.
8. Parks staff COVID mitigations
 - a. Detailed in the Parks Branch Safety Management System Safe Work Practices
 - i. COV-01 General COVID Guidance for Workplace
 - ii. COV-02 Public Interactions Guidance for COVID19
 - iii. COV-03 COVID 19 (Cleaning and Disinfecting)
 - iv. COV-04 Post Fieldwork Decontamination Protocol for COVID-19
 - v. Safe Job Procedure SJP-06-01 PPE – (Donning and Doffing) for Waste Management
 - vi. Safe Work Practice SWP-05-C9 Cleaning Outhouse (Campgrounds and Rest Stops)
 - vii. COVA-01 COVID Amendment – Vehicles
 - viii. COVA-02 COVID Amendment-Garbage Handling and Waste.
9. Wilderness Tourism Licences will be processed up to the point of payment allowing the operators to delay payment until they require the license for their operations.

Additional communications/YG points:

- Direction on travel within Yukon: To follow the general CMOH directions and orders.
- Annual camping permits go on sale on the usual date (April 1), with a COVID message.
- ENV Client Services will communicate to vendors not to sell camping permits to people prohibited from using campgrounds.
- The Chief Medical Officer of Health's directions and Yukon's public health orders apply in territorial parks and campgrounds.
- The intention is that we are opening/operating campgrounds for recreational use and commercial use by the tourism sector.

- All overnight campground users must register upon arrival in the campground, including when using an annual camping permit.
- Existing CEMA orders are available under Civil Emergency Measures Act-Regulations at https://legislation.yukon.ca/legislation/page_c.html

Summary opening timeline

Service	Timing	Notes
Parks open subject to the Chief Medical Officer of Health's directions and Yukon's public health orders		
All road-accessible campgrounds, recreation sites, and Tombstone Interpretive Centre open.	May 1	With normal level/frequency of service.
All Tombstone backcountry campgrounds open	June 26	With normal level/frequency of service
Herschel Island will be closed to the public	All Season	No services

Parks roles and responsibilities

1. Operations Managers North and South are responsible for the coordination of campground openings.
2. The safety/training officer is coordination of training and modification of the Safety Management System COVID elements to accommodate any changes during the season as well as monitoring for safety issues.
3. Park and Environment communications is responsible for tactical communications at the start of the camping season and for any changes during the season.
4. Park will use the Incident Command System to plan, open and adapt to changes due to COVID during the camping season.

Park re-closure preparedness

Once campgrounds are open and we are operating within the parameters of CMOH directions and public health orders, we must continue to evaluate:

- With the tools available to us, are we able to persuade, educate, monitor, and enforce visitors to adhere to the directions and orders?
- Specific to campgrounds:
 - Are visitors gathering in groups larger than the current limits?
 - Are visitors practicing physical distancing?
 - Are non-resident travellers adhering to the ban on using Yukon government campgrounds?
 - Are staff, contractors, or the public being placed in unsafe or high-risk situations?
- What information and data does YG/Parks need in order to make a decision about re-closure? Who is going to track it? Remembering that what the staff see in the field is a snapshot in time.

In the case of an outbreak of COVID cases that result in the need to close campgrounds, such a scenario would likely result in new order(s) from CMOH which would either specify that campgrounds must close, or set restrictions that compel us to close the campgrounds in order to comply with the orders. In either scenario, the closure protocols developed by the Parks would be implemented.

Appendix A – Park and campground facilities that will be open

Campsites (including double campsites, group camping sites and commercial sites)

Outhouses

Picnic Shelters

Picnic tables

Garbage bins

Recycle bins

Fire pits

Firewood bins

Playgrounds

Benches

Trails

Viewing platforms / decks

Parking areas

Beaches

Docks

Boat launches

Payment stations / kiosks

Interpretive signs

In-place binocular stations

Water pumps and storage tanks

Food storage lockers, bins and poles