

CEDAR SPRINGS COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Questions and Answers for our Members

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Dear Springers!

Social distancing – better called “physical distancing” – is one of the best weapons we have in the fight against the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Everyone understands that physical distancing means keeping space between ourselves and anyone who does not regularly live in our household. However, the necessary space has been variably described as “6 feet”, “2 meters” or – only in Canada – “the length of a hockey stick”. The problems are immediately obvious: 6 feet are actually less than 2 meters; and hockey sticks come in different sizes. So, let’s ask:

Question: How should we practice physical distancing?

A few facts:

- The main mode of transmission is through droplets. Our mouth, nose and eyes can be exposed directly to such droplets if we are in close contact (< 2 meters) with a person who carries the virus. Transmission can also occur through indirect contact with surfaces in the immediate surroundings of the infected person.
- Airborne (aerosol) transmission of much smaller particles (microdroplets) can occur in hospital settings during specific treatments of infected patients.
- It has been speculated that such airborne transmission may also occur outside the hospital or clinic setting, especially in rooms with little air circulation. To date, there is no proof for this concern.

Answer:

- Keep a minimum distance of 2 meters between yourself and anyone you encounter outside of your immediate household.
- Do not visit the homes of neighbors, friends or family during this difficult time.
- Stay at home as much as possible.

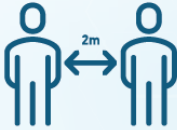
Please read carefully the Government of Canada pamphlet on the next page!

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/social-distancing.html>

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PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Together, we can slow the spread of COVID-19 by making a conscious effort to keep a physical distance between each other. Physical distancing is proven to be one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of illness during an outbreak. With patience and cooperation, we can all do our part.



What does physical distancing mean?

This means making changes in your everyday routines in order to minimize close contact with others, including:

- ▶ avoiding crowded places and non-essential gatherings
- ▶ avoiding common greetings, such as handshakes
- ▶ limiting contact with people at higher risk (e.g. older adults and those in poor health)
- ▶ keeping a distance of at least 2 arms lengths (approximately 2 metres) from others, as much as possible



Here's how you can practise physical distancing:

- ▶ greet with a wave instead of a handshake, a kiss or a hug
- ▶ stay home as much as possible, including for meals and entertainment
- ▶ grocery shop once per week
- ▶ take public transportation during off-peak hours
- ▶ conduct virtual meetings
- ▶ host virtual playdates for your kids
- ▶ use technology to keep in touch with friends and family



If possible,

- ▶ use food delivery services or online shopping
- ▶ exercise at home or outside
- ▶ work from home



Remember to:

- ▶ wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching your face
- ▶ cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm
- ▶ avoid touching surfaces people touch often
- ▶ self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 including:
 - cough
 - fever
 - difficulty breathing

If you're concerned you may have COVID-19:

- ▶ separate yourself from others as soon as you have symptoms
- ▶ if you are outside the home when a symptom develops, go home immediately and avoid taking public transit
- ▶ stay home and follow the advice of your Public Health Authority, who may recommend isolation
- ▶ call ahead to a health care provider if you are ill and seeking medical attention

NOTE: Some people may transmit COVID-19 even though they do not show any symptoms. In situations where physical distancing is difficult to maintain, wearing a non-medical mask or facial covering, (e.g., homemade cloth mask, dust mask, bandana) provides a barrier between your respiratory droplets and the people and surfaces around you. It may also stop you from touching your nose or mouth, which is another way the virus can get into your body.

The Government of Canada has implemented an Emergency Order under the *Quarantine Act*. This order means that everyone who is entering Canada by air, sea or land has to stay home for 14 days in order to limit the spread of COVID-19. The 14-day period begins on the day you enter Canada.

- ▶ If you have travelled and have no symptoms, you must [quarantine \(self-isolate\)](#)
- ▶ If you have travelled and have symptoms, you must [isolate](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

@ [canada.ca/coronavirus](https://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)

☎ 1-833-784-4397



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