Ecotourism and outfitting activities in Nunavik (including one-day guided trips)

Recommendation: Tourism from outside Nunavik

Approved by the Nunavik Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Covid-19 Pandemic (N-REPAC) on June 15, 2020. Revised on July 6, 2020 and October 1, 2020.

N-REPAC directives in place **at least until December 31, 2020**:

- Outfitting activities within the Nunavik territory should not be offered to clients arriving from outside Nunavik (regardless of whether doing so involves travel to a Nunavik community).

- No independent travelers arriving from outside Nunavik be allowed to visit Nunavik for leisure (including, but not limited to, visiting Nunavik Parks, sportfishing, ecotourism, etc.).

Recommendation: Ecotourism and outfitting within Nunavik (including one-day guided trips)

Approved by the Nunavik Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Covid-19 Pandemic (N-REPAC) on June 19, 2020.

Ecotourism and outfitting activities, including services of a guide for one-day guided trips (e.g. via Nayumivik LHC), can be offered for tourism within Nunavik to permanent residents and temporary workers. Ecotourism businesses and outfitters who receive Nunavik customers are required to hire Nunavik-based employees (e.g. guides, cooks, etc.).

Public health guidelines listed below should be respected.

Public-health guidelines

Approved by the Public Health Scientific Committee on June 18, 2020.

1. Pre-screening

The clients and the guide(s)/employee(s) should not be allowed if they:

- are required to be in quarantine or self-isolation, related for example to a recent travel outside Nunavik, a Covid-19 infection or a contact with a positive case of COVID-19, or
- have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, new cough, shortness of breath, or loss of smell).

2. One-day ecotourism/outfitting guided trips

Clients and guides/outfitters should respect physical distancing:

- Physical distancing is not necessary between people from the same household.
- Limit as much as possible the number of people from different households on the boat.
- Wear a mask (non-medical mask or a face covering[1]) whenever possible, especially in situations where a safe distance of two metres with someone from a different household cannot be maintained. You may be asked to wear it. **If you don't have a mask, you might not be allowed to board the boat**[2].
- If your mask becomes damp or wet, you are encouraged to replace it with a dry one. A reusable mask that is damp or dirty can be put into a plastic bag until it can be safely laundered.
- Avoid physical contact (e.g., hugs, handshakes) with someone from a different household.
- Hunting/fishing/ecotourism trips with people from different communities is permitted, but not recommended.

[1] Consult the face covering requirements for travel on boats: https://www.tc.gc.ca/documents/2019-2020-AA-37_FERRY_MASKS_POSTER_EN_V1_ACC.PDF

[2] To learn how to make a homemade mask, consult 'Sew and no-sew instructions' on Government of Canada web site: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/sew-no-sew-instructions-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html

Clients and guides/outfitters should respect preventive hygiene measures

- Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, especially upon embarking and leaving the boat and before and after eating (bring hand sanitizer or use soap and water).
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with potentially contaminated hands.
- Cough or sneeze into the crook of the elbow or into a tissue and discard the tissue immediately afterward.
- Do not share things that may come in contact with other people's hands or saliva, such as bottles, cans, cups, cigarettes, dip net, fishing rod, binoculars or utensils.
- Do not share food.
- If the day trip involves a stop on the shore (e.g., for lunch), the guide(s)/outfitter(s) should encourage passengers to get off and back into the boat themselves or to be helped by a person from the same household.

Cleaning and disinfection

- If equipment is on loan, the guide(s)/outfitter(s) should ensure cleaning and disinfection after each day trip.
- The guide(s)/outfitter(s) should clean and disinfect the boat after each day trip, paying particular attention to frequently touched surfaces (gunwales, engine handle, engine housing, oars and benches) with the usual products like Lysol, Clorox, Oxivir or homemade disinfectant[3].

3. Ecotourism or outfitting services involving accommodation

- If the ecotourism or outfitting services include a stay in accommodation, recommendations and best practices proposed by the Quebec Outfitting Federation and described in the ***Guide for Outfitting Operation in a Coronavirus Pandemic Context***[4] should be respected (i.e., maximum number of clients, disinfecting of surfaces). With the exception of mandatory directives, many of the recommendations proposed can be adapted to each situation.

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[3] For homemade disinfectant: Dilute 4 teaspoons (20 ml) of domestic bleach in 1L (4 cups) of water. Use a fresh mix of water and bleach every day.

[4] Available at: https://www.asf.ca/assets/files/Guide-for-Outfitting-Operation-in-Pandemic-Context.pdf-English.pdf

- As indicated in the ***Guide for Outfitting Operation in a Coronavirus Pandemic Context,*** operators must develop a contingency plan.
- In particular, **if an employee or a client begins to experience COVID-19 symptoms** (fever, new cough, shortness of breath, or loss of smell), the operator should directly contact the Nunavik COVID-19 health line[5] with a satellite phone (or contact the nearest community with a radio device and ask the person to call the COVID-19 health line) and follow the instructions.
    - **COVID-19 health line: 1-888-662-7482**.

4. Travel by charter plane or helicopter to get to the hunting/fishing or ecotourism area

- People can travel by charter plane or helicopter, as long as the COVID-19 «Flights within the region» recommendations[6] and the «COVID-19 interim recommendations for charters»[7] are followed.

[5] The health line is to help those who may need to be screened for COVID-19 and to answer medical concerns related to COVID-19.
[6] Available online: http://nrbhss.ca/sites/default/files/covid19/Lines_North_flights_EN.pdf
[7] Available online: http://nrbhss.ca/sites/default/files/covid19/Nunavik_Interim_Recommendations_For_Charter_05-18-2020.pdf