

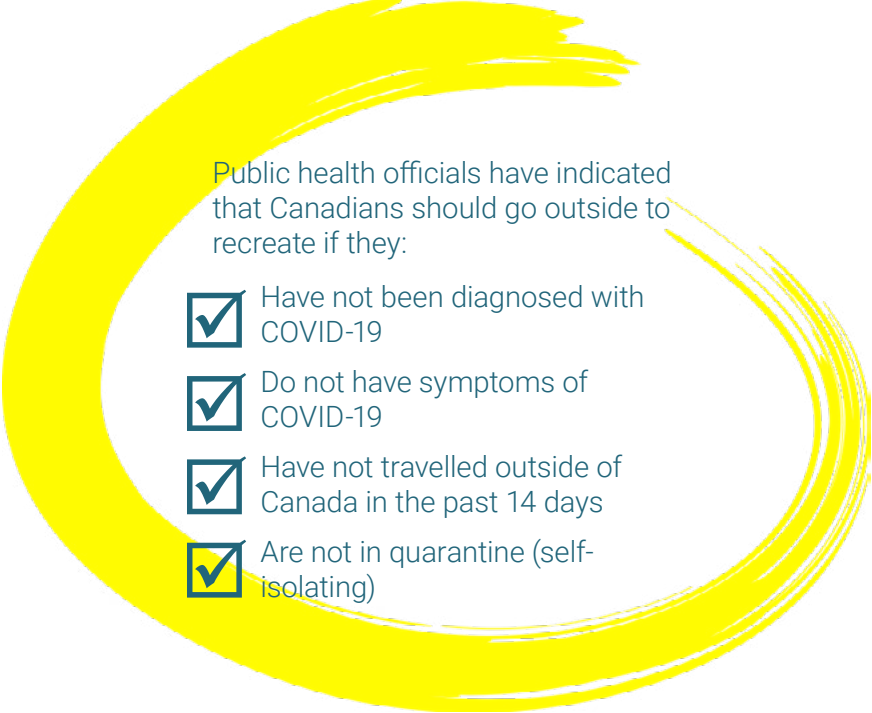
1.1 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE GUIDELINES?

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered life for all Canadians. More than ever, Canadians are turning to their trails as a venue for daily physical activity, family time and mental respite. Trails will become even more important as communities work to reignite their local tourism economies and seek safe transportation alternatives and green infrastructure.

As provinces and territories begin to reopen, trail operators and visitors are in need of guidance on how trails can be operated, maintained and enjoyed in a way that helps limit the further transmission of COVID-19. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide consistent operational and management practices that all trail operators should consider taking to mitigate the risk of transmitting COVID-19 through the trail environment and to help visitors feel safer while enjoying their trail experience.

Trails and the risk they pose for transmitting COVID-19 vary considerably across the country. Recognizing this, these guidelines enable trail operators to evaluate the relative risk that COVID-19 could be transmitted within their respective trail environment and to determine which management tools and guidelines are most applicable.

Unless otherwise stated, the guidelines outlined in this document are relevant to all classes (greenway, mixed-uses, motorized) of land and water trails and all trail settings (frontcountry, midcountry, backcountry).



Public health officials have indicated that Canadians should go outside to recreate if they:

- Have not been diagnosed with COVID-19
- Do not have symptoms of COVID-19
- Have not travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days
- Are not in quarantine (self-isolating)