

2.1 DETERMINING FACTORS FOR THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN THE TRAIL ENVIRONMENT

In general, there are four predominant trail-related characteristics that combine to determine whether a trail environment poses higher or lower risk for the transmission of COVID-19. These factors include:



1. Trail Corridor Width

Wide trails (2m+) are presumed to pose less risk than narrow trails as people can maintain physical distancing more easily.



2. Number and Type of High-touch Trail Amenities

Trails with more high-touch amenities are presumed to have greater potential for indirect transmission than trails with few to no amenities.



3. Congregating Areas

Trails that have locations where visitors tend to gather and have close prolonged interactions with one another are presumed to be higher risk than trails that do not have these spaces.



4. Potential Volume of Visitation

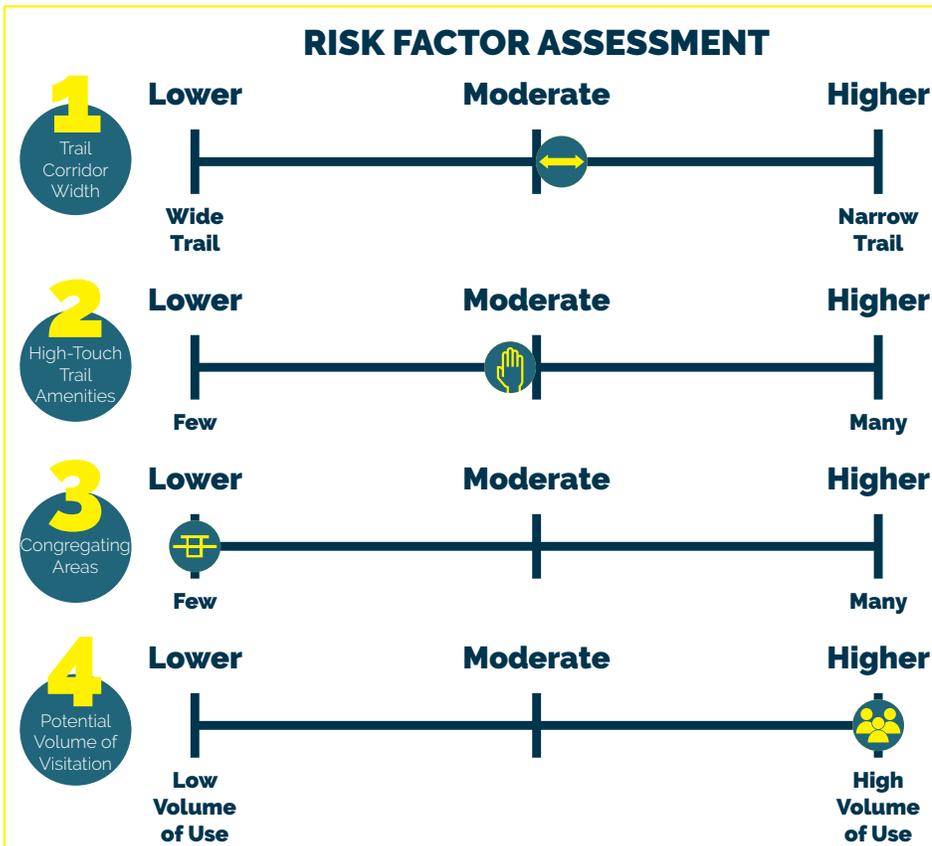
Trails with greater levels of visitation are presumed to pose a higher risk for transmission than trails with lower levels of visitation.

Prolonged Contact

Defined as contact that lasts more than 15 minutes of time where visitors are less than 2m away from each other. Prolonged contact can be cumulative (i.e. over multiple interactions)

- (Public Health Agency of Canada)

RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL



Combining the the results from the above assessment of each risk factor provides an overall relative risk rating for the trail



Figure 2: Risk Assessment Tool

Using the COVID-19 Relative Risk Assessment Tool (Figure 2), trail operators should evaluate their trail against each of the above characteristics and determine the relative risk of COVID-19 transmission for their trail. The results of this assessment should then be used to help determine what mix of indirect and direct management actions are most appropriate to apply on the trail (see section 2.2).