



The Canadian Archaeological Association (CAA) Advocacy Committee has been following COVID-19 developments across the country as they relate to archaeological fieldwork in Canada. As “reopening” processes have begun in several provinces, we developed a checklist and best practices for continuance of fieldwork based on current advice from provincial governments (see links below) and similar guidance issued by LiUNA’s archaeology representatives in Ontario. We welcome input from partners and members across the country and will update this form as required.

Provincial/Territorial Gov’t Resources

- **British Columbia:** www.gov.bc.ca/coronavirus
- **Alberta:** www.alberta.ca/coronavirus
- **Saskatchewan:** www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus
- **Manitoba:** www.gov.mb.ca/covid19
- **Ontario:** www.ontario.ca/coronavirus
- **Québec:** www.quebec.ca/coronavirus
- **New Brunswick:** www.gov.nb.ca/coronavirus
- **Nova Scotia:** www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus
- **Prince Edward Island:** www.princeedwardisland.ca/coronavirus
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/
- **Yukon:** <https://yukon.ca/en/covid-19>
- **Northwest Territories:** <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/>
- **Nunavut:** <https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

COVID-19 Health and Safety

- If you are showing symptoms of COVID-19, suspect you have been exposed to the virus or travelled outside the country in the last 14 days:
 - ♦ Stay home and self-isolate/monitor conditions or self-quarantine
 - ♦ Follow provincial public health guidelines for reporting and/or take a self assessment available online
- Practice physical distancing by maintaining approximately 2 m or 6 ft distance between yourself and people outside of your household contacts
- Wash your hands often with soap and water (at least 20 seconds)
 - ♦ If no soap and water are available, use an alcohol-based (min. 60%) sanitizer
- Clean high-contact surfaces frequently with disinfectants, household cleaners, or a diluted bleach solution
- Non-medical facemasks/face coverings are optional but can reduce the spread of respiratory droplets
- Avoid sharing your personal working tools and instruments as much as possible.

Government of Canada Resources: Canada.ca/coronavirus

- [Risk-informed decision-making guidelines for workplaces](#)



The following checklist is adapted from one developed by LiUNA Archaeology Sector Representatives for their workers in Ontario, and broadly applies to all archaeologists currently working in the field or considering resuming fieldwork activities. **These are recommendations and best practices only, the most up-to-date information and guidelines for safe work places will come from your employer and from provincial and federal public health agencies.**

Daily Safety Meetings/Check-ins:

- Consider daily or semi-weekly tailgate/safety meetings for crew to provide the latest health and safety information

To respect physical distancing:

- Stagger Crew Start Times
- Stagger Breaks and Lunches
- Restrict the size of crews and their assigned work areas and limit on-site contact between crew(s)
- Control site movement and limit the potential for workers to gather
- Hold toolbox/safety and other meetings in an outside or large space to enable physical distancing
- Limit unnecessary on-site contact between workers and outside service providers
- Encourage everyone to drive themselves to the job site. If employees carpool, demarcate distances of 2 m or more within a shared vehicle and do not overcrowd vehicles
- Maintain the same crew for the entirety of the project and limit mixing people between crews or vehicles
- Avoid or limit on-site visits from third parties as much as possible (colleagues, public, media, etc.)

To respect on-site sanitation provisions, employers should consider providing:

- Access to soap and water (ways to properly clean hands) or alcohol-based hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol)
- Washroom and handwash facilities on-site
- Supplies for sanitizing commonly touched surfaces or areas (Tripods, Screens, Shovels, Trowels, surfaces in trucks/vans or personal vehicles) between uses
- Sufficient tools and equipment to avoid sharing between crew members
- Signage on-site so everyone can access new and updated safety procedures

To track and monitor your workforce*, before entering a worksite, individuals should confirm that:

- They are aware of, and agree to comply with COVID-19 safety rules
- They are not currently exhibiting flu-like symptoms
- They have not returned from outside Canada within the last 14 days
- They have not come into close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19
- They have not worked on a site that was shut down due to the virus

*Due to the latency period of COVID-19, it is important to track where employees have worked and with whom they have been in contact. If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, the local public health unit will ask employers to provide information on where the employee worked as well as the contact information of any other employees who may have been exposed.