

# Meriadoc Dog Sports - NosyDogz COVID-19 Safety Plan and Trial Protocols

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## Acknowledgement

**Meriadoc Dog Sports and NosyDogz wish to thank K9 Scentinels Dog Sport Club for generously sharing their document with us. We recognize that it was a huge effort to produce this document and by sharing it, saved us many hours of work.**

## COVID-19 Safety Plan

1. Assessing the risks at our events
  - The people in attendance at one of our sport detection trials include one judge, MDS-NosyDogz staff and volunteers, trial entrants.
  - The places people gather at a trial are: check-in table, competitor briefing, trial walk-throughs, awards, parking area, lunch/ break room, near washrooms. Smaller groups gather in search areas, score room.
  - Job tasks where people are in close contact: as noted above, includes some volunteer positions, judge
  - Tools/ equipment that people share: pens, paperwork, clipboards, number sign, stopwatches, radios, chairs, tables, ribbons, washrooms
  - Surfaces that people touch often: door handles, washrooms
  
2. Protocols to reduce risks
  - Reviewed protocols for Sports and recreation, and COVID-19 safety plan checklist on WorkSafe BC website.
  - Reviewed VIASPORT Return to Sport Guidelines.
  - Reviewed the Government of Canada Risk mitigation tool for gatherings and events operating during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Reviewed American Kennel Club website for Obedience and Rally Suggested Best Practices.
  - Consulted K9 Scentinels club members who host trials, including those who work in the health care field.
  - Consulted orders and included guidance issued by the provincial health officer.

A list of the websites reviewed can be found at the end of this document.
  
3. First level protection (elimination)
  - We will select trial locations that allow people to space out sufficiently to maintain 2m distance or more, especially for interior search area spaces.
  - We will arrange our use of trial locations to minimize the time people spend indoors.
  - Entry limits will be controlled so that fewer than 50 people are on the trial site each day.
  - Only trial participants will be permitted on the trial site.
  - Private Event signage will be posted. Trial locations are not open to the public.
  - Entry priorities will be modified to reduce the number of people on the trial site - first to members who will also be volunteers, and to those who enter more components in a day.
  - Entry priorities will be modified to reduce travel among competitors - priority will be given to entries from Vancouver Island and then from the rest of British Columbia.
  - Check-in will use a contactless method, with tables used to ensure 2m distance.
  - Levels will be scheduled so that competitors do not have to spend the whole day at the trial site.

- Awards will be distributed by way of a contactless method, example: competitors will pick up ribbons/ score sheets from a table.
  - Occupancy limits will be determined and posted for common areas, washrooms, etc.
4. Second level protection (engineering controls)
- Physical barriers will be set up to ensure distancing where needed, including near check-in, awards, and search areas: tables, chairs, flagging or masking tape may be used depending on the area.
  - Interior areas will be ventilated wherever possible, including doors propped open.
  - Traffic flow arrows will be marked on trial map, and signage posted, to limit close contact
  - Distancing signage will be posted where line ups are likely to occur, examples: near washrooms, near check-in table, near awards table.
5. Third level protection (administrative controls)
- Rules, policies and guidelines have been established for trial hosts and trial participants. These are outlined in a separate document, linked under the Participant Trial Protocols section of this document.
  - Cleaning protocols have been established for trial hosts. These are outlined in a separate document, linked under the Cleaning Plan section of this document.
  - Participant information will be distributed in trial premiums. Participants must read, understand, and agree to abide by the rules, policies and guidelines as a condition of entering the trial.
  - This document will be posted on the MDS website, from where it can be linked in the Participant document, and the trial premium.
  - This document will be printed and posted at the trial site.
6. Fourth level protection (Personal Protective Equipment)
- Participants are being told that masks are required, and to bring their own mask.
  - Non-medical masks will be required for walk-throughs, because we anticipate that people are more likely to forget to maintain 2m distance while they are thinking about the search area.
  - The trial host and/ or judge can designate additional areas where masks are required, depending on the trial location, search areas, washroom arrangement, etc.

## **Participant Trial Protocols**

The MDS-NosyDogz COVID-19 Trial Protocols for Participants is in a separate document available at this link: [MDS-NosyDogz COVID-19 Trial Participant Protocols](#)

## Cleaning Plan

The MDS-NosyDogz COVID-19 Cleaning Plan is in a separate document available at this link: [MDS-NosyDogz COVID-19 Cleaning Plan](#)

## Trial Host Protocols

### Entry Form

- Must require a response that entrant has read, understands and will abide by the COVID-19 plan.
- Must require a phone number and address for each entry to make contact tracing easier.

### Trial Premium

- Must include the Trial Participants section of the COVID-19 Plan
- Must identify new priority entry method:  
*In an effort to reduce the number of people at the trial site, and reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread due to travel, the following trial entry priority will be used during the pandemic:*
  - *Entries from Vancouver Island will be processed first.*
  - *Entries from BC will be processed first.*
  - *Entries will be processed based on the time of entry and number of components. Those people who enter three (3) or more components each day will be processed first.*
  - *RP entries will be processed before non-RP entries.*
- Trial host will designate, and the premium must identify, a COVID Contact person with full name, cell number and email address. This person will be the single point of contact for anyone withdrawing before or on the trial day(s) due to illness. On trial day, this person should be in a volunteer position that allows them to take calls, for example: check-in or score room volunteer.

### Trial Entry Priority

The trial entry priority outlined below is designed to meet two objectives:

1. Reduce the number of people at the trial site.
2. Reduce travel-related risks by taking local entries first, and allow people to trial closer to home during the pandemic when fewer trials are being held.

When the trial opens to RPs:

- Entries from Vancouver Island will be processed first.
- Entries from BC will be processed first
- Entries will be processed based on time of entry and number of components entered.
- Priority will be given to those entering three (3) or more components each day to help limit the number of people on the trial site, then those entering 2 components, then those entering 1 component, until the trial is full.
- RP entries will be processed as detailed in this section before non-RP entries are processed.

### Trial Planning Considerations

- Select a venue that has larger interior spaces for searches that must be indoors.
- Select a venue with lower rental cost to facilitate fewer entries needed to break even.
- Select a venue that is not open to the public during the event.
- Establish occupancy limits for the facility (patrons and staff) to accommodate physical distancing of 2m between individuals or family groups/units. The WorkSafe BC COVID-19 Safety Plan contains guidance about calculating an occupancy limit: at least 5 square metres of unencumbered floor space per person.
- Increase parking between vehicles to allow 2m spacing w crating from vehicles
- Plan to hold container searches outdoors wherever the level requirements and venue allow.
- Depending on the levels offered and the number of entries, consider splitting groups into early and late check-in groups.
- Schedule components so that participants don't have to stay at the trial the full day.
- Keep run orders consistent throughout all components of a level. This simplifies public health follow-up if someone subsequently tests positive and was infectious at the trial.
- Ensure your trial co-hosts are included in all planning aspects so that if one host must stay home due to illness, the other co-hosts can proceed with the trial.
- Wherever possible, search areas will be set up to provide a 2m buffer zone for the judge and timer. The judge's steward and any other volunteers will remain at least 2m outside the search area at all times. Use tables, chairs, tape or other means to mark barriers.
- Reduce trial entry limit and allow extra time between different trial levels for sanitation.
- Assign a minimum number of volunteers to each area.
- Club videography/ photography may be permitted in outdoor areas where volunteer can remain 4m/ 15ft outside search area boundary. Volunteer should not move from station.
- Volunteers should bring their own lunches, drinks and water for their own comfort. Volunteer lunches will not be provided. Stagger lunches if possible. Only the judge's meal should be provided; a boxed lunch is preferred.
- Where appropriate, create small work "pods" or crews that work together exclusively to minimize the number of interactions. Keep crews consistent across work shifts. Now is not the time to give volunteers the experience of working different jobs.
- Control use of equipment to one group of users at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- Plan for Sanitation Station(s) at high contact areas, for example: building entrance, check-in table and washrooms.
- **Trial hosts will recognize that masks are not a replacement for distancing and barriers.** Consider and integrate in your planning - 2m distance should be the priority:
  - use double tables or rows of chairs to create exclusion zones (at check-in, between judge and search area, for score sheets/ ribbons);
  - ventilate indoor areas;
  - hold group events like briefing outdoors or in a wide open space where everyone can maintain 2m;
  - plan your indoor search areas so they allow 2m distancing of volunteers, judge and handler;
  - use a contactless pick-up table for awards/ score sheets instead of handing out.

## **Trial Day Logistics**

- All trial site attendees must check in. Total number of people on the site must not exceed 50.
- Check-in list should include phone number for handler to double-check.
- For contactless check-in, information should be verified but signature is not required.
- Non-competitor check-in form should have fields for phone number and address.
- Online form will be set up for non-competitor check-in, with paper copy as backup if needed.
- Increase parking between vehicles to allow 2m spacing w crating from vehicles.
- Ensure your briefing announcement covers key COVID-19 trial changes.
- During the pandemic, to reduce the number of people in the search areas, participants CANNOT bring a friend into the search area for video or photos.
- The only “extra” people allowed in a search area are one adult accompanying a competing minor, or those assisting someone with a disability.
- Discourage photos with the judge. If people insist and the judge agrees, photos should maintain distance and be done outside.
- Do not put the judge on the spot. Discuss privately whether or not the judge will do photos; do not ask in front of a group.
- Walk-throughs are limited to only those people running in the component. Every person on a walk-through MUST wear a mask. This includes the judge if they are moving with the group.
- Walk-throughs may be broken up into smaller groups depending on search area space limitations and number of competitors. Groups should look quickly at the area and then exit.
- Remind walk-through groups to maintain 2m distance as much as possible.
- Prop open doors where possible to reduce the need to touch door handles, and increase ventilation.
- For activities involving direct contact, ensure that hand hygiene is practiced using an alcohol-based hand rub or handwashing before and after contact.
- Set up Sanitation Station(s) at high contact areas, for example: building entrance, check-in table and washrooms.
- Those handling paperwork (including judge, judge’s steward, score room) should have easy access to wash or sanitize hands frequently.
- Stewards should not handle competitors’ dogs, leashes, equipment.
- Control use of equipment to one group of users at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- Avoid common use pens/ pencils. Isolate and sterilize any used/ shared items - pens, clipboards, etc.
- Gloves may be provided to/ worn by volunteers depending on job assignments.
- Only authorized volunteers should handle paperwork and enter the score room.
- Timer should be set up 2m outside search area if possible. Otherwise, create a 2m barrier with tables, chairs, etc.
- Timer may wear gloves if they choose. Sanitize stopwatches between timer changes, or isolate used stopwatches and provide a clean stopwatch.

- Timer, judge and judge's steward should maintain 2m distance. Set up chairs or table barriers as reminders.
- Awards, ribbons and score sheets should be placed on a pick-up table versus handed out. You may choose to announce awards, if space allows distancing, or use a self-serve model.
- Encourage people to leave the trial when they are done their searches, unless volunteering.
- Assign a sanitation volunteer to manage/ coordinate protocols from Cleaning Plan.
- If participants are not following the COVID-19 rules, policies and guidelines, you can excuse them from the trial.
- If a participant appears unwell but will not leave voluntarily, you are OBLIGATED to excuse them from the trial. If they argue, you can do temperature check and dismiss anyone with a fever of 38 degrees or higher. You can also phone the local police non-emergency number.

### Trial Signage

- Post signage to clearly communicate policies regarding on who can be at the site, which includes following the guidance of the provincial health officer and the BC CDC.  
The following are PROHIBITED from attending the site:
  - anyone who has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days
  - anyone who has been directed by Public Health to self-isolate
  - anyone who has arrived from outside of Canada in the 14 days before trial
  - anyone living with someone who meets the previous criteria
- Post signage around occupancy limits for the trial site, and specific areas if/as needed, such as near washrooms.
- Post a site layout map away from entrance showing traffic flow, entries, exits and washroom access.
- Install physical markers on the floor, walls or other (cones, lines, chairs, etc) to indicate the appropriate 2m spacing where people may end up waiting in line (check-in, washrooms, awards, etc).

### Illness Policy

Adapted from VIASPORT BC. In this policy, "Participant" includes a judge, club member, volunteer, competitor, or anyone else attending the event location.

1. ***Inform the COVID Contact person identified in the trial premium immediately if you feel any symptoms of COVID-19:***
  - ***The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include:*** fever; chills; cough or worsening of chronic cough; shortness of breath; sore throat; runny nose; loss of sense of smell or taste; headache; fatigue; diarrhea; loss of appetite; nausea and vomiting; muscle aches.
  - ***While less common, symptoms can also include:*** stuffy nose; conjunctivitis (pink eye); dizziness, confusion; abdominal pain; skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes.
2. Assessment

- A Participant must ensure that they are not feeling any of the COVID 19 symptoms before attending the event location.
  - Trial host(s) and volunteers will visually monitor Participants to assess any early warning signs as to the status of their health.
  - If Participants are unsure please have them use the self-assessment tool: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en> or the COVID-19 BC Support App self-assessment tool.
3. If a Participant:
- a. Is feeling sick with COVID-19 symptoms
  - b. Tests positive for COVID-19
  - c. Has been tested for COVID-19 and is awaiting results
  - d. Has come into contact with someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19
- They should remain at home and are not permitted to attend the trial location.
  - They must advise the COVID Contact person listed in the trial premium.
  - If they feel sick and/or are showing symptoms while at the event location, they should be sent home immediately and directed to contact 8-1-1 or a doctor for further guidance.
  - No Participant may participate in the event if they are symptomatic.
  - Participants who may have come into close contact with the Participant will be asked to self-isolate.
  - If a Participant has reported symptoms during the event, the area will be closed off, cleaned and disinfected immediately.
4. Quarantine or Self-Isolate if:
- Any Participant who has travelled outside of Canada or the province within the last 14 days is not permitted to enter any part of the event location and must quarantine and self-isolate.
  - Any Participant with any symptoms of COVID-19 is not permitted to enter any part of the event location and must quarantine and self-isolate.
  - Any Participant from a household with someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 is not permitted to enter any part of the event location and must quarantine and self-isolate.
  - Any Participant who is in quarantine or self-isolating as a result of contact with an infected person or in families who are self-isolating, is not permitted to enter any part of the event location.

## Outbreak Plan

Early detection of symptoms will facilitate the immediate implementation of effective control measures. In addition, the early detection and immediate implementation of enhanced cleaning measures are two of the most important factors in limiting the size and length of an outbreak. An “outbreak” is two or more cases; a “case” is a single case of COVID-19.

1. Identify the roles and responsibilities of host(s) or volunteers if a case or outbreak is reported. Determine who within the organization has the authority to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel activities.



2. If members (including volunteers) or a participant reports they are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 and have been at the trial location, implement enhanced cleaning measures to reduce risk of transmission. Notify the facility operator right away.
3. Implement your illness policy and advise individuals to:
  - self-isolate
  - monitor their symptoms daily, report respiratory illness and not to return to activity for at least 10 days following the onset of fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell, headache, muscle aches, fatigue and loss of appetite.
  - use the COVID-19 self-assessment tool at BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to help determine if further assessment or testing for COVID-19 is needed.
  - Individuals can contact 8-1-1 if further health advice is required and 9-1-1 if it is an emergency.
4. In the event of a suspected case or outbreak of influenza-like-illness, immediately report and discuss the suspected outbreak with the Medical Health Officer (or delegate) at your local health authority. Implement your Illness Policy and your enhanced measures.
5. If your organization is contacted by a medical health officer in the course of contact tracing, cooperate with local health authorities.

### **List of website URLs reviewed under Protocols to reduce risk:**

- WorkSafe BC: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/checklist/covid-19-safety-plan?lang=en>
- WorkSafe BC: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/sports-recreation>
- VIASPORT: <https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/ReturntoSportGuidelines.pdf>
- American Kennel Club: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/12165904/Obedience-and-Rally-Suggested-Best-Practices.pdf>
- Government of Canada: [https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/mass-gatherings-risk-assesment.html?fbclid=IwAR3PW34ZIVGcnH0Ldmw--WdEEh4v9isK\\_QbSNUZ18L0t6rqAAz-zy17MGE](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/mass-gatherings-risk-assesment.html?fbclid=IwAR3PW34ZIVGcnH0Ldmw--WdEEh4v9isK_QbSNUZ18L0t6rqAAz-zy17MGE)