

Communicable Disease Plan for Wildlife Dangerous Tree Assessor Course (WDTAC) Delivery

Field Site Standards

Field standards apply to instruction and assessment of students in the field at a suitable site selected by the instructor. Field work includes the requirement of conducting a tree survey to assess a minimum of 10 trees.

Class Capacity

One instructor may instruct up to 14 students per day, provided the venue and field site can accommodate the terms of this Safety Plan.

Traveling to the Field Site

Students will travel to the field site in their own vehicles. In cases where multiple students regularly associate with each other, and wish to share a vehicle, this is at the discretion of the students concerned and in accordance with their employer's/sponsor's safety plan.

Sterilization

Instructors are responsible for wiping down any and all equipment likely to be, or required to be, handled by students and/or the instructor prior to the start of the class, between uses by different students during the class and at the end of the class.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Masks/face shields are highly recommended indoors and when doing outdoor group activities.

Each individual participant will be encouraged to use gloves where meaningful (e.g., when using communal equipment, or handling instructional props or resource books provided by the instructor). Individuals will be responsible for providing their own PPE.

Prohibition of Participants Who Are Sick

Persons who are identified as sick will be prohibited from attending, or continuing to attend, a WDTAC delivery.

Persons prohibited from participating will include:

- Any person who is sick or begins to display symptoms of sickness (e.g., the symptoms include: 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), whether the illness has been confirmed as communicable.

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Communication

UNBC Continuing Studies will inform all course participants of the Safety Plan for the WDTAC Program in the course confirmation. A copy of this Safety Plan will be posted on UNBC's WDTAC website webpage. Instructors will post a hard copy of this Safety Plan at each course offering for review with participants as part of the safety orientation.

Course participants will be asked to:

- Follow this Safety Plan to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases.
- Reduce close contact with other persons by practicing careful social contact.
- Consider wearing a mask/face shield indoors and when doing outdoor group activities.
- To the extent practical, limit the risk of transmission of communicable diseases between one another when travelling to and from the course.
- If careful social contact is not feasible, follow the procedures set out by their company/sponsor and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Self-monitor and report to the instructor if experiencing symptoms of a communicable disease (i.e. fever, sore throat, coughing, sneezing, or difficulty breathing).
- Follow infection prevention and control practices including diligent hand hygiene, washing with plain soap and water or use of hand sanitizer with a minimum 60% alcohol. Cough and sneeze into elbows, avoid touching one's face, and dispose of used tissues immediately, to avoid contaminating hands.
- Where possible, each course participant should utilize their own tools and equipment throughout the duration of the course to minimize contact spread. If tools must be shared, they must be wiped down and cleaned with a disinfecting agent between uses.
- Ask for assistance whenever they are unsure of a safe practice.
- Bring and use any required PPE as instructed (e.g., hard hat, eye protection, gloves, hi-vis vest, ankle-supportive footwear).
- Report any unsafe conditions or acts to the course instructor.

NOTE: Failure of student(s) to adhere to this Safety Plan will be grounds for immediate dismissal without financial reimbursement.

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Who Can I Contact If I Have Questions?

Workers and employers with questions or concerns about workplace exposure to communicable diseases can call WorkSafeBC's Prevention Information Line at 604.276.3100 in the Lower Mainland (toll-free within B.C. at 1.888.621.SAFE).

You will be able to speak to a prevention officer to get answers to your questions, and if required, a prevention officer will be assigned to assess the health and safety risk at your workplace.

8-1-1 (HealthLink BC) to talk to a nurse if you need advice about how you are feeling and what to do next, or to obtain the latest updates on best practices to address communicable diseases.