

Consent form for Macoun Club field trips during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Macoun Club field trips are going ahead with the formal approval of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, in the knowledge that the chances of viral transmission are extremely low in the outdoors, provided participants maintain physical distancing.

I give my consent for my child (and me or other family members) to take part in Macoun Club field trips during the COVID-19 pandemic. I realize that children are reputed to be the least affected members of society and that *the protective measures I agree to are really aimed at avoiding any of us becoming a link in a chain of transmission to other, more vulnerable people*, such as Macoun Club leaders and family members at home.

_____ As a **first step** in protecting each other, I agree that *parents will screen their family's field-trip participants for symptoms before the trip*, and not let them take part if these symptoms could indicate viral infection, or if anyone in the family has had recent contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. (The symptoms of greatest concern are fever, new onset of cough, worsening of a chronic cough, or shortness of breath.)

_____ As a **second step**, I will instruct my child *to try to maintain a 2-metre physical distance from other*, and will respect it myself. I recognize that, in the fluid flow of people moving around the landscape, the fundamental safety of my child and myself may not be compromised by occasional lapses under 2 metres. I realize that *the risk of successful viral transmission is greatly reduced if the nearer approaches are kept brief*.

The Macoun Club leadership recognizes that members of family/friends "social bubbles" need not maintain any distance from each other.

_____ The **third measure** I will take is to send each member of my family on the trip carrying a mask that can be worn if physical distancing cannot be maintained. This could be the case *if a participant must ride in someone else's car*.

_____ I understand that this coronavirus does not always make people sick and that someone without symptoms could still be highly contagious; it could even be me or my child. After the trip, the **fourth step** would be *to inform the Macoun Club leadership if someone in my family either develops symptoms of COVID-19 after the trip, or is discovered to have been in contact with a confirmed case of the disease before it*.

Name of parent _____ Date _____

Name of child or children _____

Signature of parent _____