



Wintergreen Overnight Trip Covid Protocols

Your health & safety is our key priority this winter season. Fortunately dogsledding is an outdoor activity deemed safe by the Minnesota Department of Health and there is NO evidence that dogs spread Covid 19. We're also fortunate that while our region hosted nearly a half-million visitors last summer for adventure trips, NO cases of virus transfer were confirmed among vacationers. That indicates the lodging & meal service safety protocols here are working &, with MDH review, we've adopted our own for your safety. These include:

--For groups who've booked your own private group or family trip, it's assumed you'll function as your own safe 'bubbles' within your private cabins and exercise appropriate masking, social-distancing, & sanitizing practices as you choose. Ample sanitizing & cleaning supplies will be provided for guest use in all cabin areas.

--For guests who've booked trips that include other guests, each booking 'bubble' will have their own private bedrooms & bathrooms in cabins that have ample common space and table options for socially-distanced dining as per Department of Health protocols. While socializing in the cabins, guests are asked to wear masks & appropriately distance. Lodging options for these 'mixed group' trips may involve one or more larger adjoining cabins and/or nearby private hotel-type units that have 1-3 beds in each.

--For everyone's health and safety, Wintergreen's Covid protocols call for avoiding in-cabin contact between guests & guides. Therefore, dinners prepared by our chef in our commercial kitchen will be delivered hot to your cabin door each evening for self-service. After dinner (weather permitting), guests are invited to join their guides safely out-of-doors for socializing, stories and route-planning at campfire circles near their cabin with insulated, social-distanced seating. Guests are asked to return used serving-ware in the catering boxes to the cabin door for guide clean-up. Guests are asked to clean used dishware in their cabin dishwashers.

--Cabins will be stocked with an ample, tasty variety of fresh and frozen heat & self-serve breakfast options (and self-serve soup & hot sandwich options if/when indoor lunches are preferred).

--During dogsled outings, trailside campfire picnic lunches will be served by your guides at scenic sites with social distancing. Each guest will be issued ample trail snacks and hot & cold beverages for personal use.

--Guests are welcome and encouraged to join the guides for all outside activities including morning kennel care and evening dog feeding/watering following each days' dogsled excursion.

--On camping trips, ample tent & bivvy system options will be provided to ensure private sleeping spaces as desired. Sanitizing and hygiene will be strictly enforced for dining. Campfire gatherings will be socially distanced with participants wearing masks or neck gaiters.

--The Saturday night interpretive program for Wintergreen guests at Ely's nearby International Wolf Center will be offered as usual -- the large amphitheater program space allows for socially-distanced seating.

--**Free mail-back test kits:** <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>
Our guide staff will be regularly using these and our guests are asked to do the same just before your trip.

We realize that in these challenging times, even the best protocols may not be sufficient. But when Covid arrived late last March, we quickly implemented the practices outlined above. They worked well and we're fine-tuning them for this season with advice from health professionals. In addition to deep cleaning & sanitizing all cabins & gear between trips, we'll allow downtime between cabin use. Health officials tells us this is the optimal strategy because downtime sanitizes 'all the nooks & crannies'. Wintergreen will have masks & hand sanitizer available, but guests are asked to bring their own supplies as desired. Pocket-size packets of sanitizing "handi-wipes" are ideal since you can keep them thawed and readily available for use while dogsledding and in your cabins. Thank you for accommodating these protocols to ensure we all enjoy a safe and healthy season.

The Wintergreen Team

"Give me winter, give me dogs and you can keep the rest." Knud Rasmussen, Greenlandic explorer

Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge
1101 Ring Rock Road
Ely, Minnesota 55731

www.dogsledding.com
info@dogsledding.com

Lodge/Home 218-365-6022
Toll-free 877-753-3386
Fax 218-365-3088