

Cadets and cadet families;

As we move to start our 20/21 training year, we are faced with several challenges with many guidelines to ensure the safety of cadets and staff. The wellbeing of the cadets is our first priority and we will need to practice maximum flexibility. Things change quickly and we need to be prepared to react to these changes to keep everyone safe.

We are striving to complete at least 50% of regular training but your personal safety and comfort level need to be your guide. Participation this year continues to be **completely voluntary** and cadets **will not be penalized for not taking part**.

Part 1: Yearly validation

Every year cadets are required to validate their personal information, such as address, contact information and any relevant medical information. This year, the administration officer will be collecting email addresses to send the validation forms to update our records. Signed paper copies are required once we are able to meet in person.

For those that don't wish to have the forms emailed, you can request paper copies to be mailed via snail mail. Annual validations must be done before 30 September.

Part 2: Uniform exchanges

Since cadets never seem to stop growing over the summer, a lot of you will need new uniform pieces. This will be done by measuring at home and entering the request in the on-line form found on the web page under 'cadet resources'.

Once received by the Supply officer, uniform requests will be processed and bagged for cadets to take home and try on. Returned uniform pieces will be set aside and laundered before re-issue. We would ask that all kit is clean before returning it.

Part 3: Virtual training

Upon approval of our 'virtual training plan' by the area Commander, we will begin our virtual training program. This training will be conducted utilizing a mix of Zoom meetings and Goggle classroom lessons. The plan is to have a mix of individual learning and group learning moderated by staff and senior cadets. Cadets are encouraged to read the aide memoir available on the Facebook group. There will be one staff member appointed as the "COVID Safety Officer" they will be responsible for ensuring we are following all the required protocols.

Part 4: In-person hybrid training.

Again, pending approval of our in-person training plan, facilities checklist and cleaning protocols, as well as approval from the regiment, we will move forward to a modified in-person training plan.

To facilitate social distancing protocols, we will have only one star level and minimal staff in the armoury for in-person training each week. There will be no visitors permitted into the armoury. Cadets will have to complete COVID awareness training during part 3. Cadets will stay in their same training groups and have the same senior cadet and instructors to minimize personal contact.

We will have to wear a face mask while social distancing isn't possible. Masks will be issued to cadets but cadets will need to provide their own until the issued masks are available. Cadets will also need to complete a screening and sign into the weekly contact tracing log book to enter the armoury. We will be following the highest level of public health measures and we will be required to adhere to additional restrictions as imposed by the regiment.

Cadets will enter the armoury at 19:00 and we will have only 2 periods of instruction for a 21:00 dismissal. The extra time will allow staff to complete additional cleaning as directed by the cleaning protocols. Cadets will have to bring everything needed for a night's training (i.e.: water, snacks, pens, notepads etc.). We will be utilizing a smaller footprint in the armoury to reduce our touch-points and any training equipment will be sanitized between uses. There will not be any canteen for the foreseeable future.

While the one star level is in the armoury, the other star levels will participate in virtual training as stated above.

At this point, we are planning some day long outdoor training exercises during upcoming weekends, but there will be no overnight activities for the time being.

We are also looking at starting up things like band, drill and marksmanship teams but we are facing challenges getting locations – our access to the armoury is limited and schools and other facilities are not currently available.

I hope this answers some of your questions and I encourage cadets and parents to reach out to the staff with any concerns. The general staff email address is 21army@cadets.gc.ca and inquiries will be directed to the most appropriate staff member.

Thanks,

Lt David Taggart
Training Officer