5 Tips for Outdoor Cooling Spaces

Top 5 Tips for Creating an Outdoor Cooling Space on Social Housing Sites with covid-19 considerations:

1. **Shade**
   - An outdoor cooling space must provide 100% shade within its designated boundaries. This is because shade blocks sunlight and allows individuals to cool their skin from hot sun rays. Shade can be provided from *existing tree cover in greenspaces and/or can be created using temporary cover from white top canopy tents*. Complete shade from large trees provide the best option for cooling sites. Alternatively, white top “party” tents can be set up to create temporary shade for cooling spaces in urban areas.

2. **Space and Physical Distancing**
   - An outdoor cooling space must have enough shaded area to allow visitors to maintain a 2-metre physical distance from each other at all times. Depending on the physical environment of the cooling space, visual markers, physical barriers, or designated seating areas can help guide visitors to follow social distancing rules.

3. **Seating**
   - Providing seating for individuals in cooling areas is important to allow visitors to more effectively cool off. *Seating in outdoor cooling spaces should be completely under shade and separated by 2 meters to maintain physical distancing rules*. Providing seating via chairs, stools or benches creates a more welcoming spot for visitors to rest and cool down quicker.

4. **Outdoor Air Circulation**
   - When setting up an outdoor cooling space, consider choosing locations with natural *breezes*. Utilizing natural breezes allows cooling site visitors to cool off more effectively. Ensure all possible precautions against airborne transmission of covid-19 are taken. Including considering air flow and air direction to reduce breathing flow of cooling site visitors.

5. **Communication**
   - Enhance communication about COVID-19 and extreme heat onsite. Use health messages and materials developed by credible public health sources, such as Provincial public health departments and the BC CDC. Ensure all site staff are aware of heat related illness symptoms.