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General Update Regarding COVID-19 - Expanded

Date: March 30, 2021

RE: The Provincial Health Officer amended the gathering and events order, March 29, 2021

To view current information about restrictions, or to view the most recent order, please go to:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions#pho-order>

The following is provided for information. This is not a full list of all restrictions; to view the full list please visit the website listed. You may find it helpful to print this information and keep it with you for reference, if you are unable to reference the link through devices/workstations. All restrictions for indoor gatherings remain in place.

The Provincial Health Officer further amended the gathering and events order, since our last update on March 16, 2021. Still in effect is that up to 10 people may gather outdoors, and this is outlined in detail in Part A, starting on page 8 of the order (A. Private Residences and Vacation Accommodation), and Part C, starting on page 10 of the order (C. Outside Events to Which No Other Parts Apply). For example:

- Up to 10 people in the same core bubble/cohort may gather at a park or beach
- Up to 10 people in the same core bubble/cohort may gather in the backyard of a residence
- No gatherings of any size are allowed indoors.
- Outdoor patios and outdoor areas at restaurants, pubs and bars are not included as places to gather with 10 people at one table.

Do not gather with new people – stick to the same people. Continue to use COVID-19 layers of protection and maintain physical distancing.

Between March 29, 2021 midnight to April 19, 2021, midnight:

- The variance allowing indoor religious gatherings and worship services between March 28 and May 13 is suspended.
- Indoor low intensity group exercise classes are cancelled.
- Restaurants, pubs and bars are closed for indoor dining. Outdoor patio seating and take-out or delivery is allowed.
- Whistler Blackcomb ski resort is closed.

“For as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow.”

Safety recommendations

In addition to the orders, the PHO strongly recommends:

- Working from home whenever possible, unless it is essential to be in the workplace
- Keeping your child home from school if they feel sick or have any sign of illness
- Getting testing immediately if you or anyone in your family feels sick
- Avoiding all non-essential travel

Masks in schools

Public health guidance for K to 12 schools has been updated to support and encourage students in grade 4 to 12 to wear masks at school.

Indoor low intensity group exercise

Indoor low intensity group exercise is prohibited until April 19 at 11:59 pm. These include:

- Yoga (Hatha)
- Low intensity exercise machines and cardio equipment
- Pilates
- Light weightlifting
- Stretching
- Tai-Chi
- Low intensity Barre classes

Gatherings inside residences or vacation accommodations

No social gatherings of **any size** inside your residence with anyone other than your household or, if you live alone, your core bubble. For example:

- Do not invite friends or extended family into your residence or vacation accommodation.
- Do not host a party or event inside your house.

Activities allowed under the Order

These activities are not considered a social gathering:

- Going for a walk or hike
- Parents carpooling kids to and from school
- Grandparents providing child care
- Public pools and public skating rinks, when not associated with an event, are allowed to continue to operate with a COVID-19 Safety Plan

Core Bubble

For most people, their core bubble is their immediate household. An immediate household is a group of people who live in the same residence. For example:

- If you have a rental suite in your home, the suite is a separate residence
- If you live in an apartment or house with roommates, you are all members of the same household
- For people who live alone, a core bubble is a maximum of two people you see regularly.

Co-parenting and legal parenting arrangements

The order does not impact arrangements where children are occupants of two separate households. Children may go back and forth between the two residences.

Supporting family members or isolated people: For those who rely on a family member or close friends for support with things like picking up children after school or delivering essential items like mail, medication or groceries, these activities can continue.

University Students

Welcoming your child home from university is okay. This is not a social gathering.

Visiting People Who Live Alone

People who live alone may have up to two visitors inside their residence for a social purpose. These are the two people in your core bubble.

If those two people regularly interact with each other, they may visit the residence of the person who lives alone at the same time

People who live alone may also visit one other residence with more than one occupant.

Cultural Events and Gatherings

Cultural events and gatherings are prohibited. For example:

- Musical or theatre performances
- Galas
- Silent auctions
- Movie viewings in cinemas

Drive-in and Drop-off Events

Drive-in events: may proceed with a limited number of people. Drive-in events can have a maximum of 50 cars in attendance. People must stay in their cars and should attend with their household or core

bubble. Drive-in events must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. Examples of drive-in events: Drive-in movies; Religious services.

Drop-off events: Drop-off events may proceed with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. Examples of drop-off events: Fundraisers; Toy drives.

All drive-in and drop-off events must: Maintain physical distancing; Control the entry and exit points; Avoid congestion of cars and congregating of people.

Indoor Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms

Funerals, weddings and baptisms may proceed with a limited number of people and a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. You can have a maximum of 10 people attend, including the officiant. [Review BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\) information on event planning](#). The event organizer and staff present at the event are not included in the 10 people limit. If the event organizer also acts as the officiant, that person is included in the 10 people limit. Receptions associated with funerals, weddings or baptisms are not allowed inside homes or venues.

Outdoor Funerals

Funerals conducted by a religious body may be held outdoors (including in open-sided tents and under overhead coverings). Before, during and after the funeral service, people must not gather or socially engage.

Up to 50 people may attend, plus 2 extra people to make sure rules are followed

Formal Meetings

The order restricts most formal in-person meetings outside the workplace, with some exceptions including:

- Council meetings. It is recommended virtual meetings be held as much as possible. The public is not allowed to attend.
- Support groups like Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous
- Critical service meetings

Meals for People in Need

Meals for people in need may proceed with a limited number of people and a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. You can have a maximum of 50 people in attendance in addition to the organizer and people assisting. This includes: Soup kitchens; Meals at shelters; Charities offering meals. Pre-packaged meals are the best option to limit gatherings inside a dining area.

[Review BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\) information on food banks and food distribution](#)

Religious Gatherings and Worship Services

Inside in-person religious gatherings and worship services of any size are prohibited. You must not attend a service at a church, synagogue, mosque, gudwara, temple or other place of worship. Religious services can continue using remote or virtual attendance options, like Zoom or Skype. You can still visit your place of worship for individual activities such as guidance from spiritual leaders, contemplation or personal prayer. Religious leaders may attend the home of a member of their religious community to provide religious services to the occupant.

Retail businesses, vending markets and episodic markets

Retail businesses are required to:

- Establish capacity limits based on 5 square metres of unencumbered space per person
- Post occupancy limits
- Where practical, post directional signs to keep people moving in the same direction and not congregating

Workplaces

Employers must review and redouble their efforts on their COVID-19 Safety Plan, remind employees to monitor themselves daily and to always stay home if they have symptoms. Employers must make every effort to provide work from home options. Workplaces must ensure that all workers and customers maintain an appropriate physical distance and extra care should be taken in small office spaces, break rooms and kitchens. [Review the WorkSafeBC COVID-19 Safety Plan documentation](#)

Daily health check: A daily health check should already be included in every business's existing COVID-19 Safety Plan. [Review WorkSafeBC information on daily health checks](#)

Youth Extracurricular Activities

Structured extracurricular activities and programs for children or youth 21 years of age and younger can continue to operate with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. They must be supervised by an adult. These include: Education programs; Music; Art; Dance; Drama; Outdoor exercise; Recreational programs. Structured extracurricular activities and programs for children or youth are subject to a 50 person limit. Performances, recitals and demonstrations are not allowed.

Youth indoor and outdoor team sports: All organized indoor and outdoor sports for people 21 years of age and younger should follow [viaSport's Return to Sport Phase 2 guidance](#) with respect to maintaining physical distance for participants. This means games; tournaments and competitions are temporarily suspended for teams.

- Individual drills and modified training activities can continue
- Amateur sports organizations and leagues may implement additional guidelines to ensure the health and safety of participants

All indoor and outdoor team sports for people 22 years of age and older are suspended.