

From: [HECC Operations HLTH:EX](#)
To: ["pastorstephen@fbcnanaimo.ca"](mailto:pastorstephen@fbcnanaimo.ca)
Subject: resources
Date: May 21, 2020 3:09:00 PM

Hi, Steve

Here is the link to the guidance for cleaning and disinfecting public spaces:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf

There are also posters you can download – a minor thing, but a resource you can use in your building if you want to:

- http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_PhysicalDistancingPoster.pdf
- <http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19-Prevention.pdf>
- http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_Handwashing%20Poster_MD%20offices.pdf
- http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19_DoNotEnterPoster.pdf

Master of Disaster is coming out with some good stuff for kids. They may just have the coloring contest now but I know they have some videos and other stuff coming down the pipes. Sometimes one of the best way to get through to adults is to educate their kids:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/public-education-programs/master-of-disaster>

This page is just a good one to have bookmarked as it's kind of the one-stop-shop for all provincial comms regarding COVID-19: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

Based on our conversation, I'd draw your attention to a couple specific links. This one has good info about the phases and what expectations and restrictions will look like during each phase. There are dates attached to each phase (kind of) but of course we'll be doing what we need to do based on how pandemic evolves. The "What the New Normal Means for You: section is also helpful:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan#individuals>

Below is the transcript from one of Bonnie's most recent media availabilities. The guidance for faith-based communities hasn't been updated yet on the BCCDC website so I would go this, as she is speaking in reference to Phase 2 and Bonnie is the final word:

"Starting next week, religious services can be held with safe physical distancing. That is a maximum of 50 people still, and that is provided that many people can fit into your facility. That may be way too many for many places of worship.

We have seen outbreaks starting from religious gatherings, so be mindful of the room you are in, how long the service may be and who are your congregants who are there. Particularly if they are elders, people who are more likely to work to have severe illness with this virus.

So hold your gathering in the largest room possible. Keep the group small. If you can, the maximum is 50 but that means you have to maintain that physical distance.

You need to make sure that you are continuing to modify those parts of the service that are important, so you don't have that touching of multiple people with physical contact. We want to, as well, make sure there is opportunities for hand hygiene when you are going in and out of the facility.

That may mean you have to have shorter or multiple services and keep those virtual connections going, especially for the older people of your congregation."

I think Bonnie has tried to make very clear that even as we move into Phase 2 everyone has to assess their own level of risk. We can't all do the same things because our lives, risk tolerance, and personal vulnerabilities are different.

As we discussed, I'd suggest that a group of churches arrange a meeting with your local MHO. You can also write to the PHO, but the most effective route (given the current volume of correspondence) can be to write a letter to your MLA. What usually happens is that they forward the question to the Minister which then comes over to us.

Happy to chat at any time!

Keren

Operations | Health Emergency Coordination Centre

Emergency Management Unit – Ministry of Health

For after hours or for urgent issues related to COVID-19 please contact HECC Operations Ph: (250) 812-3996.

For urgent issues not related to COVID-19 contact the Provincial Health Duty Officer Ph: (250) 686-6061

From: [HECC Operations HLTH:EX](#)
To: [Treacher, Noah HLTH:EX](#)
Subject: RE: HECC -s.22
Date: May 14, 2020 4:17:00 PM

Hi, Noah

I know anecdotally that this specific issue has been discussed on the calls the PHO has had with faith leaders. Our published guidance to faith leaders doesn't talk about communion specifically, but it does say:

Minimize religious or cultural practices that involve person-to-person contact such as hands and faces, shared cups or vessels. If there are practices which must take place, ensure all sanitary and safety measures are taken, including hand washing or using hand sanitizer after each contact/ every person, but minimize all unnecessary contact whenever possible.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-faith-based-organizations.pdf>

You could also tell the inquirer that we will pass their concerns on to public health.

Thanks,
Keren

From: Treacher, Noah HLTH:EX <Noah.Treacher@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 14, 2020 4:06 PM
To: HECC Operations HLTH:EX <Hecc.Operations@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: HECC -s.22

Hi Hecc Ops,

Any opinion on this one?

Thanks,
Noah

From: Smith, Adam K HLTH:EX <Adam.K.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 14, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Treacher, Noah HLTH:EX <Noah.Treacher@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: HECC -s.22

Hey Noah,

Just got a call from a client s.22
s.22

Apparently the Minister there is still giving out communion by hands.
s.22 which seems dangerous s.22 I had tried unsuccessfully to contact the s.22
s.22 and was wondering if we have had any discussions with them regarding halting this practice during the crisis.

Cheers,

Adam Smith

Patient and Client Relations Officer
Corporate Issues and Client Relations
Ministry of Health
Adam.K.Smith@gov.bc.ca
236 478-0437

From: [Walker, Jennifer HLTH:EX](#)
To: [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX](#); [HECC Operations HLTH:EX](#); [Shewchuk, Chris GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: PHO Order to Ban Mass Gatherings - Distribution Plan
Date: March 15, 2020 10:00:40 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[PHO-Class Order Mass Gatherings COVID 19 Final 2020.03.13.pdf](#)

Hi Jordan,
Per our earlier conversation, find attached the order for distribution.
Please see the highlighted 'important communication note' embedded in the text below.
Copying Jean-Marc and Chris in case this connection has already been made.
Apologies for cutting the corner, but it was not clear to me who was taking this step.
Jen

From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 14, 2020 7:33 PM
To: Walker, Jennifer HLTH:EX <Jennifer.7.Walker@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Corneil, Trevor HLTH:EX <Trevor.Corneil@gov.bc.ca>; Pokorny, Peter HLTH:EX <Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca>; Delorme, Gerry [HEMBC] <Gerry.Delorme@VIHA.CA>; Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX <Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca>; Shewchuk, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Shewchuk@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Paula GCPE:EX <Paula.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Gow, Fiona S AG:EX <Fiona.Gow@gov.bc.ca>; Falconer, Mary AG:EX <Mary.Falconer@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: PHO Order to Ban Mass Gatherings - Distribution Plan

Bonnie has approved distribution of this PHO Order via new release, web posting, and email distribution.

To summarize from the note below:

First step is for GCPE to issue a news release and post this Order on the government PHO website (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics>) and appropriate BCCDC website.

Second step was to distribute to Chief MHOs. I have done that and have told them not to distribute until first step is complete.

Third step is to distribute to the list of organizations and venues to which we want to this Order to go, as follows, with help from PECC.

- To a / Society / Corporation Or Other Organization Including A Municipality / Regional District / School Board / University / College / Religious Organization which is the Owner/Occupier/Operator of or is otherwise responsible for a:

Theatre / Sports Arena / Conference Hall / Church / Recreation
Centre / Casino / Park / Festival Site Or Other Indoor Or Outside
Place

Very important communications note: this is not intended to close schools that have over 250 kids, just prohibits gatherings of over 250 people in schools such as in gymnasiums to prevent large numbers of people coming in close contact with one another. Further direction wrt schools will be coming in the next few days.

Thanks.

Brian

Dr. Brian P. Emerson, Deputy Provincial Health Officer (acting)
BC Ministry of Health, PO Box 9648 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W
9P1

T 250.952.1701 C 250.514.2219 F. 250.952. 1713

brian.emerson@gov.bc.ca

From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX

Sent: March 14, 2020 10:53 AM

To: Walker, Jennifer HLTH:EX <Jennifer.7.Walker@gov.bc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
<Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Corneil, Trevor HLTH:EX <Trevor.Corneil@gov.bc.ca>; Pokorny, Peter HLTH:EX
<Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca>; Delorme, Gerry [HEMBC] <Gerry.Delorme@VIHA.CA>; Jean-Marc
Prevost (Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca) <Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca>; Shewchuk, Chris
<Chris.Shewchuk@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Paula <Paula.Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: PHO Order to Ban Mass Gatherings - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION until distribution approved by
Bonnie

Perfect timing as I need assistance through you and GCPE to the PECC to distribute the PHO Order prohibiting mass gatherings. And copying Bonnie in case she has other thoughts on this plan.

Attached is the Order, NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION, until approved for distribution by Bonnie as she needs to brief the Minister and DM, and I don't want to pre-empt anything planned for the media event today.

Thought the media event was 10 am but seems to be a noon. (BTW do you have a recommendation for best site to follow those live on line?).

First step is to arrange with GCPE to post this on the government PHO website (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics>) and BCCDC website and issue news release so am copying the GCPE team if they are not already on to this.

Second step is to distribute to Chief MHOs, and I will do that.

Third step is to distribute to the list of organizations and venues to which we want to this Order to go, as follows, and this is where the PECC can help. For starters they could begin getting the email contact lists organized:

- To a / Society / Corporation Or Other Organization Including A Municipality / Regional District / School Board / University / College / Religious Organization which is the Owner/Occupier/Operator of or is otherwise responsible for a:
 - Theatre / Sports Arena / Conference Hall / Church / Recreation Centre / Casino / Park / Festival Site Or Other Indoor Or Outside Place

Very important communications note: this is not intended to close schools that have over 250 kids, just prohibits gatherings of over 250 people in schools such as in gymnasiums to prevent large numbers of people coming in close contact with one another. Further direction wrt schools will be coming in the next few days.

Thanks.

Brian

Dr. Brian P. Emerson, Deputy Provincial Health Officer (acting)
BC Ministry of Health, PO Box 9648 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9P1
T 250.952.1701 C 250.514.2219 F. 250.952. 1713
brian.emerson@gov.bc.ca

From: Walker, Jennifer HLTH:EX <Jennifer.7.Walker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 14, 2020 10:20 AM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Corneil, Trevor HLTH:EX <Trevor.Corneil@gov.bc.ca>; Pokorny, Peter HLTH:EX <Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca>; Delorme, Gerry [HEMBC] <Gerry.Delorme@VIHA.CA>
Subject: Emergency powers

Hi Brian, thanks so much for helping with the legal lens on all of this!

I had related follow-up calls with the AG and EMBC on the implications of policy messages being recommendations v. orders.

Doug Scott (AG ADM) further explained ^{s.13}
^{s.13}

s.13

WRT to local governments attempting to leverage the EPA, EMBC has sent messaging to their municipal partners indicating that this is not an appropriate use of powers under that Act. s.13

s.13

s.13

. In this case, any orders made by the PHO instead is also very helpful.

There are no real questions intended in this email, more of an update and food for thought as we consider our approach to controlling this situation.

Jen

Jennifer Walker, PhD RPBio
A/Director | Emergency Management Unit
Health Emergency Management BC | Ministry of Health
Mobile: 250.882.6304 | PO Box 9639 Victoria BC V8W 9P1
email: jennifer.7.walker@gov.bc.ca



If this is an emergency, please contact our 24/7 Duty Officer at 250-686-6061 or hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca



Cliff #1157407

CLASS ORDER (mass gatherings) re: COVID-19

**NOTICE TO OWNERS, OCCUPIERS AND OPERATORS
OF PLACES AT WHICH LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE GATHER (CLASS)**

ORDER OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER

(Pursuant to Sections 30, 31, 32 and 39 (3) *Public Health Act*, S.B.C. 2008)

The *Public Health Act* is at:

<http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/content/complete/statreg/08028/?xsl=/templates/browse.xsl>

(excerpts enclosed)

TO: AN INDIVIDUAL / SOCIETY / CORPORATION OR OTHER ORGANIZATION INCLUDING A MUNICIPALITY / REGIONAL DISTRICT / SCHOOL BOARD / UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE / RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION WHICH IS THE OWNER/OCCUPIER/OPERATOR OF OR IS OTHERWISE RESPONSIBLE FOR A THEATRE / SPORTS ARENA / CONFERENCE HALL / CHURCH / RECREATION CENTRE / CASINO / PARK / FESTIVAL SITE OR OTHER INDOOR OR OUTSIDE PLACE

WHEREAS:

- A. A communicable disease known as COVID-19 has emerged in British Columbia;
- B. SARS-CoV-2, an infectious agent, can cause outbreaks of serious illness known as COVID-19 among the public;
- C. A person infected with SARS-CoV-2 can infect other people with whom the infected person is in contact;
- D. The gathering of large numbers of people in close contact with one another can promote the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and increase the number of people who develop COVID-19;

- E. You belong to the class of people who are the owner, occupier or operator, or are otherwise responsible for, a place or places at which large numbers of people gather in British Columbia;
- F. I have reason to believe and do believe that
- (i) the risk of an outbreak of COVID-19 among the public constitutes a health hazard under the *Public Health Act*;
 - (ii) because the risk of an outbreak extends beyond the authority of one or more medical health officers and coordinated action is needed to protect the public from contracting COVID-19, it is in the public interest for me to exercise the powers in sections 30, 31, 32 and 39(3) of the *Public Health Act* **TO ORDER** as follows:

You are prohibited from permitting the gathering of people in excess of **250 people** at a place of which you are the owner, occupier or operator, or for which you are otherwise responsible.

You may contact me at:

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street
PO Box 9648 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9P4
Tel: (250) 952-1330, Fax: (250) 952-1570

This Order does not have an expiration date.

You are required under section 42 of the *Public Health Act* to comply with this Order. Failure to comply with this Order is an offence under section 99 (1) (k) of the *Public Health Act*.

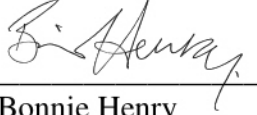
Under section 43 of the *Public Health Act*, you may request me to reconsider this Order if you:

1. Have additional relevant information that was not reasonably available to me when this Order was issued,
2. Have a proposal that was not presented to me when this Order was issued but, if implemented, would
 - (a) meet the objective of the order, and
 - (b) be suitable as the basis of a written agreement under section 38 [may make written agreements]
3. Require more time to comply with the order.

Under section 43 (6) an Order is not suspended during the period of reconsideration unless the health officer agrees, in writing, to suspend it.

If you fail to comply with this Order, I have the authority to take enforcement action against you under Part 4, Division 6 of the *Public Health Act*.

DATED THIS: 13 day of March 2020

SIGNED: 
Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

DELIVERY BY: News release on the BC Government website, the BC Centre for Disease Control website and by email.

Enclosure: Excerpts of *Public Health Act*

ENCLOSURE

Excerpts of the *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT*

Public Health Act [SBC 2008] c. 28

Definitions

1 In this Act:

"health hazard" means

- (a) a condition, a thing or an activity that
 - (i) endangers, or is likely to endanger, public health, or
 - (ii) interferes, or is likely to interfere, with the suppression of infectious agents or hazardous agents, or
- (b) a prescribed condition, thing or activity, including a prescribed condition, thing or activity that
 - (i) is associated with injury or illness, or
 - (ii) fails to meet a prescribed standard in relation to health, injury or illness;

When orders respecting health hazards and contraventions may be made

30 (1) A health officer may issue an order under this Division only if the health officer reasonably believes that

- (a) a health hazard exists,
- (b) a condition, a thing or an activity presents a significant risk of causing a health hazard,
- (c) a person has contravened a provision of the Act or a regulation made under it, or
- (d) a person has contravened a term or condition of a licence or permit held

by the person under this Act.

(2) For greater certainty, subsection (1) (a) to (c) applies even if the person subject to the order is complying with all terms and conditions of a licence, a permit, an approval or another authorization issued under this or any other enactment.

General powers respecting health hazards and contraventions

31 (1) If the circumstances described in section 30 [*when orders respecting health hazards and contraventions may be made*] apply, a health officer may order a person to do anything that the health officer reasonably believes is necessary for any of the following purposes:

- (a) to determine whether a health hazard exists;
- (b) to prevent or stop a health hazard, or mitigate the harm or prevent further harm from a health hazard;
- (c) to bring the person into compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it;
- (d) to bring the person into compliance with a term or condition of a licence or permit held by that person under this Act.

(2) A health officer may issue an order under subsection (1) to any of the following persons:

- (a) a person whose action or omission
 - (i) is causing or has caused a health hazard, or
 - (ii) is not in compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it, or a term or condition of the person's licence or permit;
- (b) a person who has custody or control of a thing, or control of a condition, that
 - (i) is a health hazard or is causing or has caused a health hazard, or
 - (ii) is not in compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it,

or a term or condition of the person's licence or permit;

(c) the owner or occupier of a place where

(i) a health hazard is located, or

(ii) an activity is occurring that is not in compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it, or a term or condition of the licence or permit of the person doing the activity.

Specific powers respecting health hazards and contraventions

32 (1) An order may be made under this section only

(a) if the circumstances described in section 30 [*when orders respecting health hazards and contraventions may be made*] apply, and

(b) for the purposes set out in section 31 (1) [*general powers respecting health hazards and contraventions*].

(2) Without limiting section 31, a health officer may order a person to do one or more of the following:

(a) have a thing examined, disinfected, decontaminated, altered or destroyed, including

(i) by a specified person, or under the supervision or instructions of a specified person,

(ii) moving the thing to a specified place, and

(iii) taking samples of the thing, or permitting samples of the thing to be taken;

(b) in respect of a place,

(i) leave the place,

(ii) not enter the place,

(iii) do specific work, including removing or altering things found in the place, and altering or locking the place to restrict or prevent

entry to the place,

(iv) neither deal with a thing in or on the place nor dispose of a thing from the place, or deal with or dispose of the thing only in accordance with a specified procedure, and

(v) if the person has control of the place, assist in evacuating the place or examining persons found in the place, or taking preventive measures in respect of the place or persons found in the place;

(c) stop operating, or not operate, a thing;

(d) keep a thing in a specified place or in accordance with a specified procedure;

(e) prevent persons from accessing a thing;

(f) not dispose of, alter or destroy a thing, or dispose of, alter or destroy a thing only in accordance with a specified procedure;

(g) provide to the health officer or a specified person information, records, samples or other matters relevant to a thing's possible infection with an infectious agent or contamination with a hazardous agent, including information respecting persons who may have been exposed to an infectious agent or hazardous agent by the thing;

(h) wear a type of clothing or personal protective equipment, or change, remove or alter clothing or personal protective equipment, to protect the health and safety of persons;

(i) use a type of equipment or implement a process, or remove equipment or alter equipment or processes, to protect the health and safety of persons;

(j) provide evidence of complying with the order, including

(i) getting a certificate of compliance from a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or specified person, and

(ii) providing to a health officer any relevant record;

(k) take a prescribed action.

(3) If a health officer orders a thing to be destroyed, the health officer must give the person having custody or control of the thing reasonable time to request reconsideration and review of the order under sections 43 and 44 unless

(a) the person consents in writing to the destruction of the thing, or

(b) Part 5 [*Emergency Powers*] applies.

May make written agreements

38 (1) If the health officer reasonably believes that it would be sufficient for the protection of public health and, if applicable, would bring a person into compliance with this Act or the regulations made under it, or a term or condition of a licence or permit held by the person under this Act, a health officer may do one or both of the following:

(a) instead of making an order under Division 1, 3 or 4, enter into a written agreement with a person, under which the person agrees to do one or more things;

(b) order a person to do one or more things that a person has agreed under paragraph (a) to do, regardless of whether those things could otherwise have been the subject of an order under Division 1, 3 or 4.

(2) If, under the terms of an agreement under subsection (1), a health officer conducts one or more inspections, the health officer may use information resulting from the inspection as the basis of an order under this Act, but must not use the information as the basis on which to

(a) levy an administrative penalty under this Act, or

(b) charge a person with an offence under this Act.

Contents of orders

39 (3) An order may be made in respect of a class of persons.

Duty to comply with orders

42 (1) A person named or described in an order made under this Part must comply with the order.

(2) Subsection (1) applies regardless of whether the person leaves the geographic area for which the health officer who made the order is designated.

Reconsideration of orders

43 (1) A person affected by an order, or the variance of an order, may request the health officer who issued the order or made the variance to reconsider the order or variance if the person

(a) has additional relevant information that was not reasonably available to the health officer when the order was issued or varied,

(b) has a proposal that was not presented to the health officer when the order was issued or varied but, if implemented, would

(i) meet the objective of the order, and

(ii) be suitable as the basis of a written agreement under section 38 [*may make written agreements*], or

(c) requires more time to comply with the order.

(2) A request for reconsideration must be made in the form required by the health officer.

(3) After considering a request for reconsideration, a health officer may do one or more of the following:

(a) reject the request on the basis that the information submitted in support of the request

(i) is not relevant, or

(ii) was reasonably available at the time the order was issued;

(b) delay the date the order is to take effect or suspend the order, if satisfied

that doing so would not be detrimental to public health;

(c) confirm, rescind or vary the order.

(4) A health officer must provide written reasons for a decision to reject the request under subsection (3) (a) or to confirm or vary the order under subsection (3) (c).

(5) Following a decision made under subsection (3) (a) or (c), no further request for reconsideration may be made.

(6) An order is not suspended during the period of reconsideration unless the health officer agrees, in writing, to suspend it.

(7) For the purposes of this section,

(a) if an order is made that affects a class of persons, a request for reconsideration may be made by one person on behalf of the class, and

(b) if multiple orders are made that affect a class of persons, or address related matters or issues, a health officer may reconsider the orders separately or together.

(8) If a health officer is unable or unavailable to reconsider an order he or she made, a similarly designated health officer may act under this section in respect of the order as if the similarly designated health officer were reconsidering an order that he or she made.

Review of orders

44 (1) A person affected by an order may request a review of the order under this section only after a reconsideration has been made under section 43 [*reconsideration of orders*].

(2) A request for a review may be made,

(a) in the case of an order made by a medical health officer, to the provincial health officer, or

(b) in the case of an order made by an environmental health officer, to a medical health officer having authority in the geographic area for which the environmental health officer is designated.

(3) If a review is requested, the review is to be based on the record.

(4) If a review is requested, the reviewer may do one or more of the following:

(a) delay the date the order is to take effect or suspend the order, if satisfied that doing so would not be detrimental to public health;

(b) confirm, vary or rescind the order;

(c) refer the matter back to the person who made the order, with or without directions.

(5) A reviewer must provide written reasons for an action taken under subsection (4) (b) or (c), and a person may not request further review of an order.

Offences

99 (1) A person who contravenes any of the following provisions commits an offence:

...

(k) section 42 [*failure to comply with an order of a health officer*], except in respect of an order made under section 29 (2) (e) to (g) [*orders respecting examinations, diagnostic examinations or preventive measures*];

From: [Singal, Mayank \[BCCDC\]](#)
To: [HECC Operations HLTH:EX](#); [Massey, Keren L HLTH:EX](#)
Subject: FW: PHM outstanding items - for your direction
Date: March 13, 2020 10:18:37 AM
Attachments: [COVID-19 Advice for organizers of large gatherings in template Mar 12 2020.docx](#)

Including you in the loop
Mayank Singal MD MPH CCFP FRCPC
Physician Epidemiologist
BC Centre for Disease Control
mayank.singal@bccdc.ca

From: Singal, Mayank [BCCDC]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 6:20 PM
To: Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]; Henry, Bonnie [EXT]
Cc: Galanis, Eleni [BCCDC]; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC]; Naus, Monika [BCCDC]; Rajsic, Christina [BCCDC]
Subject: RE: PHM outstanding items - for your direction
Looks like we have some answers regarding mass gatherings, schools and travel.
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/b-c-recommends-against-all-non-essential-travel-outside-of-canada-as-7-new-cases-of-covid-19-detected-1.5495811>
Outstanding questions for Reka/Bonnie:

s.13; s.17

3. LTC: MHOs wanted to know if there are any additional restrictions regarding visitors to LTC, i.e. in addition to the typical recommendation to not visit if the visitor is symptomatic. I have shared Bonnie's recommendation in yesterday's [press release](#).
4. Mass gatherings – updated to reflect today's recommendations (see attached). Please let me know if ok for posting.

Thanks.

Mayank Singal MD MPH CCFP FRCPC
Physician Epidemiologist
BC Centre for Disease Control
mayank.singal@bccdc.ca

From: Singal, Mayank [BCCDC]

Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 1:33 PM

To: Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]; Henry, Bonnie [EXT]

Cc: Galanis, Eleni [BCCDC]; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC]; Naus, Monika [BCCDC]; Rajsic, Christina [BCCDC]

Subject: PHM outstanding items - for your direction

Reka,

Some outstanding questions for you/Bonnie/Chiefs to discuss and provide direction on:

s.13; s.17

2. LTC: MHOs wanted to know if there are any special restrictions regarding visitors to LTC, i.e. in addition to the typical recommendation to not visit if the visitor is symptomatic. I have shared Bonnie's recommendation in yesterday's [press release](#).

3. Mass gatherings: We had prepared a risk assessment tool for organizers (see attached). s.13; s.17

s.13; s.17. Let us know if more specific guidance is anticipated for BC and if the attached guidance is approved for dissemination.

4. MHOs asked for a provincial statement regarding spring break travel.

Regards.

Mayank Singal MD MPH CCFP FRCPC

Physician Epidemiologist

BC Centre for Disease Control

mayank.singal@bccdc.ca

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19): Information for Organizers of Large Gatherings

What is Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and how does it spread?

COVID-19 is a respiratory infection caused by a newly identified virus. The infection has symptoms similar to other respiratory illnesses, including the flu and common cold: cough, sneezing, fever, sore throat and difficulty breathing. Severe illness can occur in some people. COVID-19 is transmitted by droplets when a person coughs or sneezes in close contact with another person, or onto surfaces which are later touched by another. The virus can be spread by touch if a person has used their hands to cover their mouth or nose when they cough. The virus causing COVID-19 is not known to become airborne, and does not pass through the skin.

Why are large gatherings important in the context of COVID-19?

Large events such as conferences, festivals, concerts, religious services, and sporting events bring together groups of people and may increase transmission of respiratory infections. *Event organizers play an important role in minimizing the possibility of transmission for COVID-19, as well as other respiratory infections.*

Should I cancel my event?

Gatherings of more than 250 people should be cancelled. The decision to cancel a smaller is complex and should be informed by considerations listed in Appendix 1.

How do I minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission at my event?

To reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission, the following measures are recommended:

During the event, organizers should encourage and support attendees to:

- Stay home if they are ill.
 - *Organizers can offer refunds, re-ticketing and remote viewing options (e.g. online attendance, TV) to encourage and support people who are ill in their decision to not attend the event.*
- Clean their hands frequently and adequately (with hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol or with warm running water and soap), especially after using the washroom and before interactions with others.
 - *Organizers can provide hand sanitizer and handwashing stations at entrances and in prominent locations at the venue.*
- Cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing (e.g. cough into their arm to avoid touching their face), and avoiding touching the face.
 - *Reminders of good cough hygiene ("cover your cough") can be provided in event communications including announcements and online messages*
- Avoid close proximity and contact with others
 - *Organizers can discourage physical contact and crowding (e.g. by encouraging people not to shake hands, not to dance closely together, etc).*
 - *Organizers should not provide or encourage shared sleeping accommodations.*
- Avoid sharing food or drinks with others.
 - *Organizers can eliminate self-serve buffet style eating, and instead offer separate individual servings (e.g. bagged lunches, separate serving plates).*

Before the event, organizers should:

- Plan to frequently and thoroughly clean high-touch areas (such as door knobs, payment card touch pads and elevator buttons) with regular disinfectant cleaning products. Mixing 15 mL (1 tablespoon) of household bleach per 1 litre of water will form an effective disinfectant solution. Use of specialized disinfection products is **not** necessary.
- Establish modes for online or other remote participation/viewing if possible.
- Consider ways to limit crowding, such as switching to an outdoor or larger venue, or dividing the event into smaller groups.
- Stagger times for arrivals and departures to prevent crowding and congested areas.
- Plan processes to rapidly communicate new information with attendees if necessary.
- Meet with the venue's operations manager to learn about your venue, local resources and how to set up an isolation area for people who may become ill during the event.
 - Establish arrangements to safely isolate people who become ill during an event (with masks in a separate space), and support them in seeking health care by contacting a clinic before arrival to ensure proper protection is in place. A simple "procedure mask" is appropriate to prevent droplet transmission; an "N95" respirator is not necessary. If a mask is not available, people who are ill should be given tissues and instructed to cover coughs/sneezes.
- Be prepared to respond to updates in public health recommendations. Identify plans in case you are notified by health authorities to postpone or cancel your event.
 - *Set up a contingency plan (Plan B) and update your communications contacts list for the attendees so that you can provide up-to-date information if needed.*

Should I provide masks to attendees?

Based on current public health evidence, it is **not** recommended that event participants without symptoms wear masks during large gatherings.

Is there anything special I should do if my event includes older adults, people with lung disease, heart-disease, diabetes, or immune-compromised individuals?

These are all risk factors for severe illness and death due to COVID-19, so it is particularly important to follow the above guidance. Consider whether remote viewing options can allow choice of how to participate for people with risk factors for severe disease. Consider the distance and transportation options from your event to healthcare services, particularly for long events in remote locations.

Are children's events a concern for COVID-19?

Children have more frequent hand-to-face contact, and they generally have greater exposure to respiratory viruses than adults. However, current evidence suggests that children have lower rates of COVID-19 than adults, and are less likely to experience severe disease. Measures to limit infection transmission are always recommended for events including children.

Where can I learn more?

The Public Health Agency of Canada has developed a risk assessment tool to support event organizers in identifying and mitigating risks at large gatherings: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/mass-gatherings-risk-assesment.html>.

Information developed by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) for the public on COVID-19, including how to isolate and seek medical attention for COVID-19, is available at [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel)).

Further questions? To discussion prevention of COVID-19 transmission during your event, contact your local public health unit (<https://immunizebc.ca/finder>).

Appendix 1

Factors to consider when deciding whether to postpone or cancel a mass gathering event

Below is a list of considerations for organizers of large gathering to assist with determining whether an event should be cancelled or postponed. Many such events have social, cultural, and/or educational significance and the potential benefit of cancelling or postponing an event should be weighed against these costs.

1. People attending the gathering
 - a. Are attendees coming from regions with community transmission or unreliable surveillance?
See [WHO situation report](#) for a list of currently affected countries.
 - b. Are attendees at higher risk of severe disease?
Populations at higher risk of disease include older adults, people with a weakened immune system, or chronic conditions, such as heart and lung disease.
 - c. Are attendees members of critical infrastructure roles, such as health care workers?
 - d. What is the size of the gathering?
The larger the gathering, the larger the potential for exposure
2. Event activities
Activities that can facilitate COVID-19 transmission include singing, cheering, sharing food or beverages, contact sports, or other close contacts.
3. Indoor vs outdoor
Outdoor events may be lower risk due to higher ventilation
4. Length of the event
Longer events present more opportunities for transmission
5. Event resources
 - a. Will alcohol-based hand rub or handwashing sinks with soap and disposable towels be readily available?
 - b. Will there be first responders at the event to attend to someone who may be sick?
 - c. Will there be a place to isolate anyone who becomes sick?
 - d. Will there be signage/information at the event to discourage people from attending the event if they are sick?
 - e. Will there be signage/information to promote healthy habits?
See above under *How do I minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission at my event?*
6. Health system
 - a. Is access to health care readily available?
 - b. Is there local capacity to test and care for persons suspected of COVID-19, potentially in high numbers?
 - i.

From: [HECC Operations HLTH:EX](#)
To: [Robb, Katie TRAN:EX](#); [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Walker, Jennifer HLTH:EX](#); [Wood, Susan D HLTH:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Guidelines on Compliance and Enforcement
Date: April 4, 2020 10:54:00 AM
Attachments: [Compliance and Enforcement Guidance 2020.03.31 final.pdf](#)
[Comply Enforce 2 pager 2020.03.31 final.pdf](#)

Hi, Katie and Jordan

I wanted to follow up about the messaging the JIC has, and possibly the 1-888 line, about compliance and enforcement of public health orders. My reason for doing so is that some draft messaging from the JIC landed on my desk which I'm not sure was correct. It could have been outdated, of course, but just wanted to follow up just in case.

I'm sure you've both seen the documents attached which clarify that under the Public Health Act compliance and enforcement officers can only support adherence to public health orders if directed to do so by public health, i.e. a Medical Health Officer.

I have been informed that the Office of the Provincial Health Officer is part of collaborative work to set up a central line where complaints about non-compliance can be sent, managed, and directed to the appropriate Medical Health Officer. Until this is established, the options are to 1) forward the complaint to a Medical Health Officer or 2) bundle the complaints until this central structure is established. It is my understanding that complaints should not be made directly to compliance and enforcement officers.

The guidance above applies to businesses and services. Complaints about an **individual** not following public health orders/guidance can be addressed with the following script:

Thank you for notifying us of your concerns. It is our strong expectation that people who are required to self-isolate will do so. Compliance is very important to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If the person you are concerned about is unwell, call 8-1-1 and they will provide advice about helping the person get assistance and they can ensure your family can stay safe and well during this time. Or call 9-1-1 if the person is in distress. If the person you are calling about appears well do not engage or interact with that person. We appreciate you letting us know about your concerns. If you have additional questions that are not health related you can call 1-888 COVID19.

Does this guidance align with your understanding? If not, please let me know. I am aware that there has been confusion and uncertainty around this process.

Thanks,
Keren Massey

Operations | Health Emergency Coordination Centre

Emergency Management Unit – Ministry of Health

For after hours or non-activation related incidents please contact the Provincial Health Duty Officer
Ph: 250-686-6061



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Compliance and Enforcement Guidance about Public Health Orders with respect to Physical Distancing

This document is accurate as of March 31, 2020 and is subject to change.

Purpose

This document is to provide guidance to compliance and enforcement officials (C&EOs) such as bylaw enforcement officers and other provincial compliance officers i.e. liquor and cannabis control and licencing inspectors, gambling enforcement and investigations officers, and community safety personnel with respect to the implementation of COVID-19 public health orders.

NOTE: Police officers and C&EOs are not empowered to enforce (i.e. ticket or detain) with respect to public health orders. Their role is to provide assistance only when called upon by a health officer pursuant to section 90 of the *Public Health Act* (see Appendix 1)

Introduction

The transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the coronavirus which causes COVID-19, is a serious threat to life, health, wellbeing and society.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is transmitted via liquid droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The droplets fall on people and objects close to the sneezing or coughing person.

Direct transmission happens when the virus is carried in these droplets and deposits on the eyes, nose or mouth if someone is in close contact with an infected person. It can also be transmitted by personal contact, such as touching or shaking contaminated hands such as happens when someone uses their hands to cover their mouth or nose when they cough or sneeze. Hence the recommendation that people cough or sneeze into their arm and wash their hands regularly.

Indirect transmission (via objects/surfaces) can also occur by touching something with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.

Airborne transmission of the virus (i.e. transmitted through the particles floating in the air) is not a factor in spread through the population and it is not something that enters through the skin.



Coronavirus COVID-19

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Promoting physical distancing of people from one another to prevent droplet and personal contact transmission is a key tactic to preventing infections with the virus. Physical distancing of 2 metres between people is recommended to reduce the risk of these modes of transmission.

Context

On March 25, 2020 the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General made the Bylaw Enforcement Officer (COVID-19) Order, and on March 31, 2020 made the Provincial Compliance Officer (COVID-19) Order), both pursuant to the *Emergency Program Act* (Appendix 1).

These Orders enable C&EOs to provide assistance for compliance and enforcement of public health through monitoring and providing warnings, information and advice.

The province has adopted and implemented a graduated compliance and enforcement approach that generally starts with providing information, education and advice as the first step, with escalating measured enforcement only as required.

Role of Compliance and Enforcement Officers

- In assisting with the compliance and enforcement of public health orders, C&EOs are to be guided by policy direction from the Provincial Health Officer.
- C&EOs officers are not authorized to detain an individual as a result of a contravention or suspected contravention of a public health order.
- C&EOs are also not authorised to exercise any authority to issue a fine or penalty.
- Nothing in the Minister's Orders or this guide limit any powers or duties of a C&EOs.

Provincial Health Officer Orders

In addition to frequent public statements, interviews and other communications by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), actions by PHO under the *Public Health Act* to control the impact of the pandemic include issuing PHO Class Orders i.e. Orders to a class of people or organizations. It is important to refer to the published Orders and guidance documents for additional detail ([Provincial Health Officer Orders](#)). In addition, it is important to note that oral Orders are in force pursuant to health officer powers under the *Public Health Act* and may also be subject to compliance and enforcement measures. The documents related to oral PHO Orders will be posted to the PHO website once available. The PHO Orders are:



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- *Mass gatherings Order* prohibiting **events** that would result in the gathering of more than 50 people in close contact with one another to promote physical distancing and limit the number of people who could be infected at a single event. This Order does not apply to worksites unless a mass gathering event is held at a worksite, or public places such as grocery stores or malls, unless an event is held in those spaces; does not apply to food banks and homeless shelters. (March 16, 2020).
- *Public health emergency declared* by providing notice under the *Public Health Act* to enable the exercise of the emergency powers in Part 5 of the Act (March 17, 2020).
- *Order to travellers returning to Canada* requiring self-isolation for 14 days (March 17, 2020).
- *Order to Owners, Operators of places at which food and/or drink are prepared and served*: holders of liquor licences who do not provide meal service are ordered to close; places where food and drink are prepared and served are required to restrict themselves to take out or delivery and limit the number of people present to 50 as long as sufficient space available to enable them to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from one another (March 20, 2020 - the "Food and Drink Order")
- *Oral Order to personal service establishments* to close until further notice. These include but are not limited to barbershops, nail salons, tattoo parlours, beauty parlours, health spas and massage parlours. These services require direct, personal contact with other people. (March 21, 2020 - the "Personal Services Establishment Order-
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0102-000540>).
- *Oral Order to episodic vending markets*: All episodic vending markets (also known as "farmers markets" or "community markets") must only allow vendors to sell food at these events. Vendors of all other merchandise are prohibited at these events. (March 27, 2020 -
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0014-000582>).

A summary of the Orders is in Appendix 2 and copies of the Orders documents in force are at the following link:

Provincial Health Officer Orders and Notices



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General Expectations of Compliance and Enforcement Officers in Supporting Implementation of Public Health Orders

The aim of public health orders is to manage and reduce the spread of COVID-19 by encouraging physical distancing.

C&EOs are to provide assistance with *Public Health Act* orders with the following principles in mind:

- Public education and voluntary compliance without the need for law enforcement interventions.
- A balanced approach to maintain public trust to ensure essential services can operate while following public health Orders.

Following these principles support people coming forward for testing and treatment and to enable COVID-19 case monitoring and contact tracing.

A. Individuals and self-isolation

There are **no** public health Orders addressed to the general public requiring them to maintain physical distancing outside their own homes, with the exception of inside food premises. The public has been provided with strong recommendations and guidance in this regard.

Expected C&EO actions (none of which prevents the exercise of existing powers and authorities):

Vigilance and awareness

- In general, C&EOs are not expected to monitor individual behaviour or have a role when it comes to individuals and self-isolation measures.
- This failure to follow self-isolation measures may be:
 - intentional (i.e. a preference for individualistic behaviour no matter the risk to self or others or other reasons)



Coronavirus COVID-19

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- due to limitations or external barriers which do not enable the individual to comply, even if they would like to. These include for example, the surrounding environment such as physical space of the premises, the way that services are designed or offered, or some other assistance is required.
- inadvertent – the failure to follow is temporary and the individual self corrects

Issuing Information, Advice (Public education efforts)

- C&EOs you may receive information or complaints from individuals, based on their beliefs, worries or knowledge of others not practicing self-isolation. This may be in part, based on lack of understanding or information on the difference between self-isolation, quarantine and who should be self-isolating. To the extent that it is feasible, share the resources below on self-isolation. In addition, conveying the following messaging to the complainant may be helpful. It is not necessary to refer these situations to a health officer:

"Thank you for notifying us of your concerns. It is our strong expectation that people who are required to self-isolate will do so. Compliance is very important to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If the person you are concerned about is unwell, call 8-1-1 and they will provide advice about helping the person get assistance and they can ensure your family can stay safe and well during this time. Or call 9-1-1 if the person is in distress. If the person you are calling about appears well do not engage or interact with that person. We appreciate you letting us know about your concerns. If you have additional questions that are not health related you can call 1-888 COVID19."

Self-isolation information is available at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation>

Note that federal legislation and orders may also apply to returning travellers:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/canadas-reponse.html#acb>



Coronavirus COVID-19

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B. Businesses, facilities, that have been ordered to close

The businesses and facilities that have been ordered to close are bars and nightclubs that do not provide meal services, and personal service establishments which include businesses such as barbershops, salons, tattoo parlours, tanning salons etc. In some area of the province health officers have connected with their bylaw enforcement departments and established protocols for dealing regulated facilities.

Expected C&EO actions (none of which prevents the exercise of existing powers and authorities):

Vigilance and awareness

- Further to orders that are currently in force, be aware of what facilities or businesses should be closed

Assistance with Issuing Information, Advice and Warnings (Interventions)

- On receipt of information or notice that a business is open that should not be:
 - Ensure that a responsible person for the business or business premises receives information about the Order
 - Provide information on what the Order is and why it needs to be complied with
 - Provide information that the situation could be escalated for enforcement if the Order is ignored or not followed
 - A warning may also be given which outlines next steps with an expected timeline, i.e. that you will monitor the business further for compliance with the Order, and in the event of further non-compliance escalated action may be warranted.
- A “responsible person” includes a store manager, an operator, a business owner, a director of the company, or any person that is able to close the business in compliance with the Order

Assistance with Monitoring for compliance with the Order after interventions

- Monitor whether the business has complied with the Order, after receiving your information and advice and based on the timeline of expectations
- If there is ongoing non-compliance with the Order, contact the relevant health officer and provide information on non-compliance, and actions taken.



Coronavirus COVID-19

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C. Businesses, facilities that may remain open

In some area of the province health officers have connected with their bylaw enforcement departments and have established protocols for dealing regulated facilities.

Expected C&EO actions (none of which prevents the exercise of existing powers and authorities):

Vigilance and awareness

- Further to orders that are currently in force, be aware of what facilities or businesses in your areas may remain open.

Different tactics will be required to monitor food establishments. This may include:

- Attending premises as part of other duties or monitoring activities
- Attendance may be prioritised based on a preliminary risk analysis (e.g. a high potential for non-compliance and existing, known barriers that do not facilitate physical distancing)
- Receiving and acting on information from the public on a specific establishment

Assistance with Issuing Information, Advice and Warnings (Interventions)

- If you receive information or notice that a business is not adhering to the take-out or delivery provisions and physical distancing requirements applicable to restaurants or food serving establishments, ensure that a responsible person for the business or business premises receives information about the Order. A "responsible person" includes a store manager, an operator, a business owner, a director of the company, or any person that is able to close the business in compliance with the Order
- A warning may also be given which outlines next steps with an expected timeline, i.e. that you will monitor the business further for compliance with the Order, and in the event of further non-compliance that you may notify a health officer.

Assistance with Monitoring for compliance with the Order after interventions

- Monitor whether the business has complied with the Order, after receiving your information and advice and based on the timeline of expectations
- If there is ongoing non-compliance with the Order, contact the relevant health officer and provide information on non-compliance, and actions taken.



Coronavirus COVID-19

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- D. Mass Gatherings (events): Gathering in groups of over 50 people close together at events**
(does **not** apply to worksites unless there is an event at a worksite, or public places such as grocery stores or malls unless an event is held in those spaces; does **not** apply food banks, homeless shelters)

The Mass Gathering Order is intended to prevent periodic (episodic) or regular events where groups of people gather in close quarters with one another. These gatherings may be unplanned or unstructured, but usually involve people gathering for a common purpose. This Order prohibits gathering in groups of over 50 people close together at events, to prevent transmission of the virus by increasing physical distancing.

The Order applies to indoor and outdoor sporting events, conferences, meetings, religious gatherings and other similar events on public and private property. The Mass Gatherings Order does not apply to customers of businesses waiting for services, however the physical distancing required under the Food and Beverage Order does apply.

Those who are responsible for indoor and outdoor gathering sites to whom this Order applies includes individuals, societies, corporations, municipalities, regional districts, school boards, universities, colleges and religious organizations.

Expected C&EOs (none of which prevents the exercise of existing powers and authorities):

Vigilance and awareness

- Different tactics will be required according to the type of entity and associated public gathering. Likely actions will entail completing a risk analysis and or conducting site visits based on:
 - information from the public and others on public gatherings taking place or scheduled to take place
 - Reliance on existing knowledge of facilities or premises with physical spaces that have a capacity of more than 50 people
 - Existing knowledge of potential sites likely to engender groups of more than 50 and a lack of physical distancing practices (does not include worksites unless there is an event at a worksite, or public places such as grocery stores or malls, unless an event is held in those spaces; does not apply to food banks, homeless shelters)
 - Observations made as an ancillary action in the course of other duties

Assistance with Issuing Information, Advice and Warnings (Interventions)



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



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- The focus is on knowledge and information sharing and actions needed to be tailored based on whether the non-compliance is:
 - A unique instance of that has occurred and is unlikely to be repeated, or
 - Whether there is a likelihood that the non-compliance could be repeated multiple times.
- When more than 50 people have gathered closely together, information, advice, and warnings can be utilised. Information, advice as to expectations of the timelines for compliance, and warnings if needed, can all be directed to the persons responsible for the facility and premises.
- While gatherings of groups of people in excess of two or three people are strongly discouraged at this time, it is not unlawful for an entity to hold an event of fewer than 50 people. For organisers of public gatherings of less than 50 people– determine whether information sharing or advice would reduce the risk of the gathering. For example, sharing advice, information warnings to encourage physical distancing practices.
- For all other ad-hoc public gatherings of groups more than 50 people that may be self-organised or unplanned – consider whether general announcements may be made to the group.

Assistance with Monitoring for compliance with the Order after your interventions

- For the businesses, institutions, facilities that have not changed their practices based on any information, advice, notify the local health officer.



Coronavirus COVID-19

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APPENDIX 1 - MINISTERS ORDERS

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (COVID-19) ORDER

Definitions

1 In this order:

“**bylaw enforcement officer**” means the following:

- (a) a person in a class of persons described in section 3 (c), (d) or (f) of the Community Charter Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation, B.C. Reg. 425/2003, who is designated as a bylaw enforcement officer under
 - (i) section 264 (1) (b) of the *Community Charter*, or
 - (ii) section 264 (1) (b) of the *Community Charter* as that section applies to a regional district for the purposes of section 414 of the *Local Government Act*;
- (b) a person in a class of persons described in section 3 (d) of the Vancouver Charter Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation, B.C. Reg. 189/2007, who is designated as a bylaw enforcement officer under section 482.1 (1) (b) of the *Vancouver Charter*;

“**health officer**” means the provincial health officer or a medical health officer within the meaning of the *Public Health Act*;

“**public health order**” means an order made by a health officer under the *Public Health Act* in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Application

2 This order only applies during the period that the declaration of a state of emergency made March 18, 2020 under section 9 (1) of the *Emergency Program Act*, and any extension of the duration of that declaration, is in effect.

Bylaw enforcement officers to provide assistance

3 (1) To the greatest extent possible without unduly compromising any other bylaw enforcement objectives of the local authority, each local authority must ensure that the local authority's bylaw enforcement officers provide such assistance as may be required for the purposes of enforcing public health orders, including, without limitation, the following:

- (a) monitoring facilities and areas closed to the public by a public health order;



Coronavirus COVID-19

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- (b) providing warnings, information and advice to members of the public in respect of public health orders, including warnings to members of the public who may be acting in contravention of a public health order;
 - (c) providing health officers with information in respect of potential contraventions of a public health order.
- (2) In providing assistance under this section, a bylaw enforcement officer is not authorized to
- (a) detain an individual as a result of a contravention or suspected contravention of a public health order, or
 - (b) issue a fine or penalty, including an administrative penalty, under the *Public Health Act*.
- (3) Nothing in this section is to be construed as limiting any powers or duties of a bylaw enforcement officer under the *Community Charter*, *Local Government Act*, *Vancouver Charter* and related regulations or local authority bylaws, as the case may be.

PROVINCIAL COMPLIANCE OFFICER (COVID-19) ORDER

Definitions

1 In this order:

“**health officer**” means the provincial health officer, an environmental health officer or a medical health officer, within the meaning of the *Public Health Act*;

“**provincial compliance officer**” means the following:

- (a) a person authorised to conduct an inspection under section 23, 84 or 89 of the *Cannabis Control and Licencing Act*;
- (b) a person authorised to conduct an inspection under section 13 or 42 of the *Liquor Control and Licencing Act*;
- (c) a person authorised to conduct an audit, inspection or investigation under Division 1 of Part 9 of the *Gaming Control Act*;

“**public health order**” means an order made by a health officer under the *Public Health Act* in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Application

- 2 This order applies during the period that starts on the date this order is made and ends on the date on which the declaration of a state of emergency made March 18, 2020 under section 9 (1) of the



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



HOW YOU CAN SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Take care of others by taking care of yourself.

Wash your hands, don't touch your face, and stay home if you are sick.

Stay at Home and Physically Distance

Stay at home whenever you can. Maintain 2 meters distance from those outside of your household.

Act expires or is cancelled or, if there is an extension under section 9 (4) of the Act, the date on which the last extension of that declaration expires or is cancelled.

Provincial compliance officers to provide assistance

- 3 (1) In accordance with any direction given by the minister, provincial compliance officers must provide such assistance as may be required for the purposes of enforcing public health orders, including, without limitation, the following:
- (a) monitoring facilities and areas closed to the public, or to which public access is restricted, by a public health order;
 - (b) providing warnings, information and advice to persons in respect of public health orders, including warnings to persons who may be acting in contravention of a public health order;
 - (c) providing health officers with information in respect of potential contraventions of a public health order.
- (2) In providing assistance under this section, a provincial compliance officer is not authorized to
- (a) detain an individual as a result of a contravention or suspected contravention of a public health order, or
 - (b) issue an order, fine or penalty, including an administrative penalty, under the *Public Health Act*.

Public Health Act

Peace officer assistance

- 90 (1) A health officer may call on the assistance of a peace officer for the purposes of taking an action authorized under this or any other enactment, including, without limitation, either of the following purposes:
- (a) making or enforcing an order or carrying out an inspection;
 - (b) assisting a person to comply with an order of the health officer.
- (2) If any person disobeys, or fails to comply with, an order or a direction of a commissioner under Division 1 [Inquiries], the commissioner may call on the assistance of a peace officer to enforce the order or direction.
- (3) A peace officer called on under this section must take any action that is necessary for a purpose described in subsection (1) or (2), and may use such force as is reasonably required for that purpose.



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



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Stay at Home and Physically Distance

Stay at home whenever you can. Maintain 2 meters distance from those outside of your household.

Appendix 2 – Provincial Health Officer Orders

PROVISO:

This document is not intended to comprise legal advice.

In the event of an ambiguity between this document, and the *Public Health Act*, regulations under the *Public Health Act* or orders under the *Public Health Act*, the Act, regulations and orders prevail.

This document is accurate as of March 31, 2020, and is subject to change.

Summary of Orders as of the date of this publication

The following table provides a summary of the Provincial Health Officer Orders. Given the change in emergency tactics and measures needed, C&EOs should check the following websites for the latest orders:

- 1) Ministerial Orders available at BC Laws website
- 2) Provincial Health Officer Orders available at:

Link to *Provincial Health Officer Orders and Notices*

Note that early orders can become outdated and succeeded by other orders.

Title	AUTHORISING OFFICIAL	DATE	SUMMARY
Mass gathering (events)	Provincial Health Officer	March 16, 2020	Prohibits gathering of people at events in close contact with one another in excess of 50 people. Does not include worksites unless there is an event at a worksite, or public places such as grocery stores or malls, unless an event is held in those spaces; or food banks, homeless shelters.

Leonard, Christopher J HLTH:EX

From: HLTH HSD HLTH:EX
Sent: May 6, 2020 11:37 AM
To: s.22
Subject: Ministry of Health Response - 1163364

1163364

Naresh Goyal

s.22

Dear Naresh Goyal:

Thank you for your emails of April 23 and April 29, 2020 regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

Protecting the health and safety of British Columbians is the top priority of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). The Provincial Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), and the Ministry are taking a deliberate and thoughtful approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic, learning from other jurisdictions that are farther along, while staying alert to changes here in BC. We have taken a whole government approach to prepare, contain, and break the chain of COVID-19 transmission.

Thank you for taking the time to bring your concerns for your congregation to our attention. Our knowledge of COVID-19 continues to grow as new information becomes available. Across the country, the federal, provincial, and territorial governments are using this new evidence to inform and adjust our public health actions as circumstances develop globally.

At this time, there is an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission at gatherings of any size.

As a result, by order of the public health officer, events where there are gatherings of larger than 50 people are prohibited. This is not an order of convenience, but a requirement to protect everyone in our province. While 50 is the maximum number, please note we strongly discourage in-person gatherings of any size.

On March 31, 2020, the Provincial Health Officer released guidance to faith-based organizations on how to plan and prepare, prevent infection, and protect members that access and work for these organizations. Leaders within faith-based organizations are encouraged, whenever possible, to use online tools to connect with others virtually for services, meetings and events. Consider cancelling all non-essential in-person services, meetings and events. The guidance is available at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-faith-based-organizations.pdf>.

As always, you can help keep yourself and your community safe by adopting the same measures used to prevent other common respiratory viruses during winter. These include cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs, coughing or sneezing into your elbow sleeve, disposing of used tissues in the garbage, avoiding touching your face and eyes, and staying away from others if you are sick yourself. Anyone concerned they may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary-care provider, local public health office, call 8-1-1 for further steps, or use the BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool, which can be found here: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>.

During this challenging time, it is important to maintain connections with friends, family, and colleagues while many of us stay at home. To minimize the risk of exposure, we recommend giving consideration for virtual gatherings, practicing physical distancing, and forgoing usual greetings. Getting outside in our many parks, walking our pets, or going for a bike ride are all safe provided physical distancing is possible. Physical distancing, staying a fingertip-to-fingertip distance away from each other and staying home whenever possible, is a critical line of defence to prevent exposure to COVID-19. The *COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information* webpage is a useful tool which might be helpful to you. The webpage is available at: www.gov.bc.ca/covid19.

For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, I invite you to visit the BCCDC website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>. Additionally, a dedicated phone service is available to provide non-health related information about COVID-19 by calling 1 888-COVID19 (1 888-268-4319). A service representative is available seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and information is available in more than 110 languages.

HealthLinkBC is the best resource for all those in BC who have health related questions about COVID-19. Health experts are available to help you with your non-emergency health concerns about COVID-19 and can direct you in accessing care. Please see HealthLinkBC's website at: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-covid-19> or call 8-1-1 (7-1-1 for the deaf and hard of hearing) if you have questions. Translation services are available in more than 130 languages.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond, and hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Thomas Guerrero
Executive Director

Improvement through every concern.



Patient and Client Relations
Corporate Issues and Client Relations
Ministry of Health

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Dear Sir/Madame.

Our temple is closed during these times. Only the devotees who are involved in essential services are doing the service following all the guidelines about cleanliness and social distancing.

It has been over a month. Now some congregation members are anxious to come and do some service and visit the temple. So can you please let me know as to how many people can enter the temple at one time and for how long.

I have been guided by Sandy of city of Burnaby to write to you. If any questions you can contact me at s.22 or e-mail me at s.22

Sincerely,
Naresh Goyal.

Leonard, Christopher J HLTH:EX

From: HLTH HSD HLTH:EX
Sent: May 26, 2020 10:50 AM
To: 'Brenda Nestegaard-Paul'
Subject: Ministry of Health Response - 1164917

1164917

Brenda Nestegaard-Paul
bnestegaardpaul@bc.anglican.ca

Dear Ms. Nestegaard-Paul:

Thank you for your email of May 13, 2020, regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

Protecting the health and safety of British Columbians is the top priority of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). The Provincial Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), and the Ministry are taking a deliberate and thoughtful approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic, learning from other jurisdictions that are farther along, while staying alert to changes here in BC. We have taken a whole government approach to prepare, contain, and break the chain of COVID-19 transmission.

We appreciate you writing to the Ministry to share your concerns about singing. COVID-19 is known to spread most often through respiratory droplets. Wearing a non-medical mask is way to cover your mouth and nose to prevent your respiratory droplets from contaminating others or landing on surfaces. Just like our recommendation not to cough into your hands (instead, cover your cough with tissues or your sleeve), a non-medical mask can reduce the chance of others encountering your respiratory droplets.

Wearing a non-medical mask may be beneficial in situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained consistently. Additionally, if wearing a non-medical mask stops you from touching your nose and mouth, then it can be helpful to minimize the risk of exposure to yourself and others around you. However, it is important to note, any mask, no matter how efficient at filtration or how good the seal, will have a reduced effect if it is not used together with other preventative measures, such as frequent hand washing and physical distancing. For more information, I invite you to review the COVID-19 Prevention and Risks page:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html>.

We are asking everyone to follow the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer and use their common sense when planning or attending gatherings. Groups larger than 50 give the virus an opportunity to reemerge and no matter how far apart you are, large gatherings are prohibited. It is also important to clarify that while 50 is the maximum number for gathering, if, for example, a space only permits 20 people to gather while allowing for safe physical distancing measures then 20 is the maximum number that can gather in that space. For more information, I encourage you to visit *BC's Restart Plan* webpage here:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>.

Event organizers, such as religious leaders, are encouraged to ask all participants to stay away if they are sick, returning from affected areas, or have underlying health conditions that may be impacted by respiratory illness. Organizers should also complete a risk assessment considering what is happening in the local community and who may attend the event. Local public health teams are available to assist event planners with these assessments. Further guidance is also available from the World Health Organization and the BC Centre for Disease Control.

While the Ministry can not recommend or endorse in person gatherings at this time, so long as gatherings adhere to all orders, notices and guidance provided by the Provincial Health Officer to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, they are permissible. It is important to understand that only some types of businesses and services have actually been ordered to close. Any business or service that has not been ordered to close, and is not identified as an essential service, may remain open or re-open if they can adapt their services and workplace to adhere to the orders and recommendations made by the Provincial Health Officer.

You can help keep yourself and your community safe by adopting the same measures used to prevent other common respiratory viruses during winter. These include cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs, disposing of used tissues in the garbage, avoiding touching your face and eyes, and staying away from others if you are sick yourself. Anyone concerned they may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary-care provider, local public health office, call 8-1-1 for further steps, or use the BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool, which can be found here:

<https://covid19.thrive.health/>.

For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, I invite you to visit the BCCDC website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>. Additionally, a dedicated phone service is available to provide non-health related information about COVID-19 by calling 1 888-COVID19 (1 888-268-4319). A service representative is available seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and information is available in more than 110 languages.

HealthLinkBC is the best resource for all those in BC who have health related questions about COVID-19. Health experts are available help you with your non-emergency health concerns about COVID-19 and can direct you in accessing care. Please see HealthLinkBC's website at: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19> or call 8-1-1 (7-1-1 for the deaf and hard of hearing) if you have questions. Translation services are available in more than 130 languages.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond, and hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Thomas Guerrero
Executive Director

Improvement through every concern.



Patient and Client Relations
Corporate Issues and Client Relations

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Hello! I am a pastor of a Lutheran and Anglican congregation in Port Alberni, church traditions that involve a lot of singing. I am also a trained singer and choir director.

This pandemic has closed our church to date and we are meeting online. We have anxiously awaited the guidelines from the Health Officer, Ministry of Health and Premier as to how to proceed regarding gathering again 'in the flesh'. I give thanks for the leadership and direction to date.

I have also kept up to date with scientific based data, good data, from elsewhere. Just the other day there was a webinar sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Chorus America, Barbershop Harmony Society, and Performing Arts Medical Association (PAMA). They presented an important webinar about the near term future of singing "as we seek fact based solutions in protecting our singers, teachers, and conductors during this time." The scientific based conclusions were pretty grim for anyone who sings as part of a choir, band, musical theatre, opera whether community based or professional. The results impact churches, theatres, bars even open spaces.

The thing is, singing (and even speaking loudly from the diaphragm) is dangerous in this time of Covid 19. I have pasted below the webinar link and my own crib notes. The recommendation is that it cannot be done safely until there is a vaccine/ready treatments so for upwards to 2 years.

Many, many people sing in all sorts of contexts. Normally, it is one of the healthiest things we can do for ourselves. But not now.

I urge you to follow up on this topic and to make public what you will discover.

And please let me know that you have read this missive.

Thank you.

Brenda+

The live webinar hosted by NATS moderated by Tim Sharp, executive director of ACDA, Catherine Dehoney, president and CEO of Chorus America, Marty Monson, CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and Allen Henderson, executive director of NATS. Guests joining:

Dr. Donald Milton, a leading researcher whose work focuses on the interrelated areas of infectious bioaerosols, exhaled breath analysis, and development and application of innovative methods for respiratory epidemiology. Dr. Milton is Professor of Environmental Health, University of Maryland School of Public Health, with a secondary appointment in the School of Medicine.

Otolaryngologist Dr. Lucinda Halstead, is founder and medical director of the Evelyn Trammell Institute for Voice and Swallowing at the Medical University of South Carolina. She is also President Elect of the Performing Arts Medicine Association (PAMA).

Mollie Quinlan-Hayes is director of ArtsReady and national initiative of South Arts and most recently served as deputy director at South Arts.

Tom Clareson is project director of Performing Arts Readiness, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to help performing arts organizations protect their assets, sustain operations, and prepare for emergencies.

My notes;
laryngologist

- what causes the infection - aerosolization of viral particles
- many severe infections worldwide began in churches because of singing
- singing is a super emitter
- also transmission of viral particles off surface

Keys to Re-opening Safe Group Singing & Performances

- wide-spread testing (PCR) - within 24 hrs of rehearsal (still 3-5% risk)
- contact screening
- vaccine development (18-24 months away?)
- new drug treatments (6-12 months away?)
- overall proven efficacy?

Until then social distancing until safe i.e. treatments and/or vaccine are developed along with masks and gloves

Return to Group Singing - Ideal

1. acceptance of risk by group/sponsor or both (will still be a 3-5% risk)
2. screening criteria at the door - home PCR test/done at door in private space, symptom screening, temp checks, 99.4 degrees F, pulse oximetry check
3. privacy issues - who's managing this data?

Don't have the above now.

Return to Group Singing - High Risk

1. acceptance of risk
2. screening at the door has everything above **except** the PCR. all the difference.

Can we sing with a mask? no masks are currently safe for singing.

- N95 only one to consider but difficult to breathe due to material; recirculation of breath causes some decrease of O2 levels with rebreathing, increasing CO2 levels - result is headaches; also HOT; could injure people with significant health issues like asthma, COPD, heart disease.

Other barriers/masks: DO NOT TRY

- material is not droplet proof
- open at top, bottom or sides is not helpful
- spraying cloth with disinfectant NOT a good idea
- risks of hypoxia with closed system

Conclusion: BE PATIENT. The time of choirs, orchestras, audiences will come.

Responses to various questions:

- all age groups are affected though children's mortality rate is less
- treating all ages the same is a good idea
- The ideal singing practice right now would be a small group, spatial distance, outside, wind at the back.
- humming isn't the answer.
- have to think about air ventilation and sanitation as well as we move forward

Audiences: how is Covid 19 influencing intent to visit cultural entities? (data collected by Colleen Dilenschneider)

- collected over last 8 weeks
- recent update is May 4
- intent to visit best metric to gauge response
Study showed majority anticipates resuming more normal behaviours PROVIDED they are made aware of additional measures to keep them safe
- More likely to attend outdoor events; less likely indoor such as movie theatre, enclosed spaces or anywhere one is supposed to interact and touch things
- Without operational and strategic change, 1 in 4 would attend exhibit based; 1 in 7 would attend performance based.
- what would make people feel safe? a) vaccine b) sanitizer

Factors we can control:

- ability to be outside
- hand sanitizer
- avoiding long lines of people
- limits on crowds
- onsite health monitoring (e.g, taking temperatures)
- knowing facility cleaning procedures.

The entire webinar is available to listen to at this link. There is much more than what I have cribbed here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFI3GsVzj6Q>

**Also thought you might find this article of interest.
from EpiscopalCafe.com**

As churches reopen, hymnbooks will not

- [May 4, 2020](#)
- [John Chilton](#)

"It's looking likely that when we do regather in public worship, one way we will moderate the spread of Covid-19 is by not singing. How long that lasts will depend on how long the virus has abated.

Dr. Heather Nelson is a vocologist and a voice teacher with a PhD in Vocal Pedagogy and Voice Science. And a music director at a mid-sized Baptist church in Missouri. She [writes](#):

The more I read, the more I came to realize that whether I encouraged my congregation to engage in public singing when we met together again would be the most important decision I have made in ministry so far.

...

Because the droplets are larger, they can travel a few feet from the no-doubt penitent cougher or sneezer, and then they are grabbed by gravity and fall to the ground. If a person happens to be sick, and those droplets contain bacteria or viruses, they can infect another person if the droplets come into direct contact with that other person, or that person touches something the droplets land on and then they touch their mouth or eyes. Droplets are large enough they must be expelled from the body by force, with coughs or sneezes.

Aerosol particles are small enough that they can disperse from a person just from the normal act of breathing. Singing or loud speech tends to increase the aerosol cloud in size and in distance (sending aerosol from a person from 3 to 27 feet, varied by numerous factors). Also, because the aerosol particles are so small, they float in the air for much, much longer before gravity finally pulls them to the ground. And when I say much, much longer, I mean 12 hours or more in calm air. If the space where aerosol is present has an HVAC system or a draft that is moving air around, that aerosol can stay buoyant for an indeterminate amount of time.

...

Fifty years ago scientists looked at the spread of tuberculosis in an industrial school, where those who were in choir with an infected individual had a higher rate of catching the disease than those who interacted with the individual outside of singing events. Granted, this is a case study of a single individual in a single location, so it is not able to be verified through repeat measures like other types of studies. However, the study was rigorous and has been cited by other scientists numerous times, which attests to its reliability as a good study overall.

...

There is also a [tragic story of a choir](#) who held a rehearsal in early March and later experienced an outbreak among members, and others who contracted the disease after a choir rehearsal.

We don't know, honestly, if it was the singing that created an environment for this disease to spread. We also don't know that it didn't...

The gist: For now, it is not safe to sing together."

The Rev. Brenda ***, pastor/incumbent**

Trinity Anglican+Lutheran Church

4766 Angus Street, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 1S9

#250.724.4921

bnestegaardpaul@bc.anglican.ca

www.trinityportalberni.ca

Like us on Facebook!

We acknowledge that for thousands of years the Coast Salish, Nuuchah-nulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where we now live, work, worship, and play. We seek a new relationship with the first peoples here; one based in honour and respect.

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Leonard, Christopher J HLTH:EX

From: HLTH HSD HLTH:EX
Sent: May 27, 2020 3:43 PM
To: 'pastor@standrewskamloops.com'
Subject: Ministry of Health Response - 1165415

1165415

Reverend Steve Filyk
Minister
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
pastor@standrewskamloops.com

Dear Rev. Filyk:

Thank you for your email of May 14, 2020, regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and BC's Restart Plan. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged all of us to rise to the occasion, and we have now come to a pivotal point in our continued fight to keep everyone safe and healthy. BC's restart will be a careful, step-by-step process to ensure all our combined efforts and sacrifices are not squandered.

Phase 2 of BC's Restart Plan includes the gradual re-opening of non-essential businesses and sectors that were closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like essential services during the pandemic, all employers must demonstrate they have operational plans and guidance in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and provide a safe working environment. Employers do not need a formal COVID-19 Safety Plan in place to begin operation, but are expected to develop it while protecting the safety of your workers.

You have written to enquire how faith communities and gatherings are impacted by BC's Restart Plan. First, it is important to clarify that any business or service that has not been ordered to close may remain operational if they can adapt their services and workplace to adhere to the orders and recommendations made by the Provincial Health Officer. Churches and other faith organizations were never ordered closed.

It is critical to recognize however that there is an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission at gatherings of any size. As a result, by order of the public health officer, events where there are gatherings of larger than 50 people are prohibited and remain prohibited even now that some restrictions have been eased. This is not an order of convenience, but a requirement to protect everyone in our province.

As part of BC's Restart Plan, some small gatherings of 2-6 people, such as play dates with kids or small numbers of friends gathering outdoors or in homes, are considered permissible. We are asking everyone to follow the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer and use their common sense when planning or attending such small gatherings. While gatherings larger than 6 but less than 50 are not prohibited, the Ministry advises against groups of such size. It is also important to clarify that if a building can not hold 50 people while allowing for physical distancing, then whatever number less than 50 that can safely gather while distancing is the maximum for that building. For example, for a building that can only hold 20 people while allowing for safe physical distancing, 20 is the maximum gathering size for that building. For a building that could allow 70 people with physical distancing, 50 remains the maximum. Again, groups larger than 50 give the virus an

opportunity to reemerge and no matter how far apart you are, large gatherings are prohibited. The mass gathering order was recently updated to include rules for drive-in gatherings; you may wish to review this order on the following webpage: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>. For more information, I encourage you to visit *BC's Restart Plan* webpage here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>.

If your organization wishes to resume the provision of faith services, the development of operational plans and guidance are the responsibility of the industry organization or individual business. If you have an industry organization, I would recommend you reach out to them about the development of plans and guidelines as they may have already started this process. Please note, it is not within the purview of this Ministry to provide further guidance on this topic. We encourage everyone to take the time they need to think about how they are going to adapt their activities to the new ways of operating in our province. For more information about *BC's Restart Plan*, I encourage you to visit the webpage here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>.

Event organizers are encouraged to ask all participants to stay away if they are sick, returning from affected areas, or have underlying health conditions that may be impacted by respiratory illness. Organizers should also complete a risk assessment considering what is happening in the local community and who may attend the event. Local public health teams are available to assist event planners with these assessments. Further guidance is also available from the World Health Organization and the BC Centre for Disease Control.

WorkSafeBC is a valuable resource for developing your COVID-19 safety plan so you can restart your business safely. Industry-specific information, tools, and resources has been posted on their website. As more industries prepare to reopen, WorkSafeBC will continue to share tools and resources that may be useful in preparing and implementing your plans. WorkSafeBC will not be reviewing or approving the plans of individual employers, but during a WorkSafeBC inspection, they will ask employers about the steps they have taken to protect their workers or to see the plan if it has been developed. For further information and resources, you can review the WorkSafeBC website here: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation>.

We can safely restart our province with everyone working together, supporting each other with patience and care. It is in our hands to make that happen.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond, and hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Thomas Guerrero
Executive Director

pc: Honourable John Horgan

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Patient and Client Relations
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Ministry of Health

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Mr. Premier & Dr. Henry,

Within the 'restart plan' information for BC I have found no mention of faith communities. While I appreciate the government consultation with faith leaders, this apparent oversight is causing concern within our communities.

Where do we fit into the overall plan?

Sincerely,

Steve

--

Rev. Steve Filyk, Minister
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1136 6th Ave
Kamloops, BC V2C 3S1
250-372-3540 (office)
250-819-3844 (cell)
www.standrewskamloops.com/
www.facebook.com/presbyterianchurchkamloops/

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EMAIL RESPONSE

1157295

Rabbi Matt Ponak

s.22

Dear Rabbi Ponak:

Thank you for your email of March 11, 2020, regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

Protecting the health and safety of British Columbians is the top priority of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). The Provincial Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), and the Ministry are actively monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout British Columbia and Canada there are many systems in place to prepare for, detect, and contain serious infectious diseases. The Ministry and Provincial Health Officer are confident in our capacity to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and at a provincial level.

We have strongly recommended and advised that events that bring more than 250 or more people closely together – indoors or outdoors – be cancelled for now. This does not apply to buildings (including airports and schools) or transportation (including ferries and airplanes). This does not apply to grocery stores or shopping malls. This does not apply to museums, ski hills, gondolas, or other places where the environment allows for distance between people. You are encouraged to operate your business as usual with increased attention to common sense practices and measures to support social distancing. If your venue does not allow for social distancing, consider how your services could be conducted virtually.

The Ministry recommends forgoing usual greetings, practicing social distancing, and consideration for virtual gatherings. As always, if you are sick you should stay home to stop the spread of any type of illness. Anyone concerned they may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary-care provider, local public health office, or call 8-1-1 for further steps.

The measures we take to prevent other common respiratory viruses during winter are effective in preventing infection with COVID-19 as well. These include cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs, coughing or sneezing into your elbow sleeve, disposing of used tissues in the garbage, avoiding touching your face and eyes, and staying away from others if you are sick yourself.

Other countries have adopted more restrictive containment approaches; this is not the path we are taking in BC. We expect that transmission of COVID-19 will increase in the province and are providing advice and recommendations in response to the situation as it evolves in an effort to slow transmission.

For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BCCDC on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit their website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>. Additional information is also available on HealthLink's website at: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-covid-19> and you can also call the provincial health line 8-1-1 (7-1-1 for the deaf and heard of hearing) if you have questions. Translation services are available in more than 130 languages.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond, and hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Thomas Guerrero
Executive Director

EMAIL RESPONSE

1165400

Tahir Khalid
Abbotsford.chairperson@thebcma.com

Dear Mr. Khalid:

Thank you for your email of May 15, 2020, regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

Protecting the health and safety of British Columbians is the top priority of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). The Provincial Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), and the Ministry are taking a deliberate and thoughtful approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic, learning from other jurisdictions that are farther along, while staying alert to changes here in BC. We have taken a whole government approach to prepare, contain, and break the chain of COVID-19 transmission.

BC has begun the process of re-opening, re-starting, and easing the restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our made-in-BC approach will lift restrictions in phases, putting safety first, by gradually allowing for more social and economic activity, while closely monitoring health information. BC's Restart Plan is informed by health experts, common sense, and practical decision-making. By moving carefully and deliberately, we can help to keep our curve flat, respond effectively, and protect the health of our most vulnerable.

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Islamic celebration of Eid ul Fitr and the Provincial Health Officer's orders. We recognize that this celebration has passed but for future guidance regarding faith-based celebrations and gatherings you can visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-faith-based-organizations.pdf>. For a list of the Provincial Health Officer's orders, notices, and guidance please visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>.

You can help keep yourself and your community safe by adopting same measures used to prevent other common respiratory viruses during winter. These include cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs, coughing or sneezing into your elbow sleeve, disposing of used tissues in the garbage, avoiding touching your face and eyes, and staying away from others if you are sick yourself. Anyone concerned they may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary-care provider, local public health office, call 8-1-1 for further steps, or use the BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool, which can be found here: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>.

During this challenging time, it is important to maintain connections with friends, family, and colleagues while maintaining a safe physical distance. Physical distancing, staying a fingertip-to-fingertip distance away from each other and staying home whenever possible, is a critical line of defence to prevent exposure to COVID-19. To further minimize the risk of exposure, we recommend fewer faces, smaller groups, shorter time together, and bigger spaces. It is necessary to take the time to plan out how you're going to safely include people in your household bubble and think about who you need to protect and who may be higher risk. Always thinking about location, duration, and our relations will help to keep all of us safe. A safe path ahead is based on your personal circumstances and your actions.

For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, I invite you to visit the BCCDC website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>. Additionally, a dedicated phone service is available to provide non-health related information about COVID-19 by calling 1 888-COVID19 (1 888-268-4319). A service representative is available seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and information is available in more than 110 languages. For more information about BC's response to COVID-19, I welcome you to visit our webpage at: www.gov.bc.ca/covid19.

HealthLinkBC is the best resource for all those in BC who have health related questions about COVID-19. Health experts are available to help you with your non-emergency health concerns about COVID-19 and can direct you in accessing care. Please see HealthLinkBC's website at: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19> or call 8-1-1 (7-1-1 for the deaf and hard of hearing) if you have questions. Translation services are available in more than 130 languages.

Now more than ever we need people in BC to be tolerant, kind, calm, and safe in our schools, buses, on the streets of our community. Let's continue to work together to keep our province strong.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond, and hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Thomas Guerrero
Executive Director



COVID-19 TELEPHONE RESPONSE TEMPLATE

Cliff #: 1167129

Date / Time of Call: June 8, 2020 @ 2:05pm (8 minutes)

Name & Number of Person Contacted: Ms. Anne Lam ^{s.22}

ISSUE: Client works for West Point Grey Baptist Church and is looking for the minutes/transcript of the Faith Leaders Conference and wants to know if she can attend any future meetings on this subject.

Conversation Details:

- Staff spoke with client and provided the information indicated.
- Staff collected the client's email (Office@wpgbc.org) and phone number and provided them to HECC to pass along to the Premier's Office.

Topic discussed	
Y = yes	
Y	<p>STANDARD & CONTACTS: Protecting the health and safety of British Columbians is the top priority of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). The Provincial Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), and the Ministry are taking a deliberate and thoughtful approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic, learning from other jurisdictions that are farther along, while staying alert to changes here in BC. We have taken a whole government approach to prepare, contain, and break the chain of COVID-19 transmission. The provincial health officer has declared a public health emergency. This is an additional step to ensure our province has more tools available to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This declaration enables the provincial health officer to facilitate an even faster response to the rapidly changing situation and enact further measures to protect British Columbians. The implementation of a public health emergency allows us tools, and we are using some of those tools now. For example, we are in conversation with some public health physicians and have asked them to come back to work with us. We recognize that these are challenging circumstances, and we will continue to try and provide ways that allow us to work with healthcare professionals all over BC to improve the situation.</p> <p>You can help keep yourself and your community safe by adopting the same measures used to prevent other common respiratory viruses during winter. These include cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs, coughing or sneezing into your elbow sleeve, disposing of used tissues in the garbage, avoiding touching your face and eyes, and staying away from others if you are sick yourself.</p> <p>www.gov.bc.ca/covid19 http://www.bccdc.ca/</p> <p>https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-covid-19</p> <p>1 888-COVID19 (1 888-268-4319) 811</p>

	<p>BARS / RESTAURANTS: On March 17, 2020, businesses with liquor primary licences, such as bars, pubs, and night clubs, were asked to close as they are unable to adequately meet the requirements of physical distancing. Restaurants and cafes must move to take-out and delivery models.</p> <p>REOPENING - Phase 2 of BC's Restart Plan includes the gradual re-opening of non-essential businesses and sectors we have closed, such as hair salons, restaurants, and pubs, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The re-opening of these businesses relies on their development of operational plans and guidance to provide a safe work environment and compliance with public health orders. WorkSafeBC will work with employers and workers through educational materials, consultation, and workplace inspections to help businesses to restart safely. For more information, I encourage you to visit BC's Restart Plan webpage here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan. More information regarding WorkSafeBC can be found at https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation.</p>
	<p>BCCDC & HEALTH LINK: For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, I invite you to visit the BCCDC website: http://www.bccdc.ca/. Additionally, a dedicated phone service is available to provide non-health related information about COVID-19 by calling 1 888-COVID19 (1 888-268-4319). A service representative is available seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and information is available in more than 110 languages.</p> <p>HealthLinkBC is the best resource for all those in BC who have health related questions about COVID-19. Health experts are available help you with your non-emergency health concerns about COVID-19 and can direct you in accessing care. Please see HealthLinkBC's website at: https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-covid-19 or call 8-1-1 (7-1-1 for the deaf and hard of hearing) if you have questions. Translation services are available in more than 130 languages.</p>
	<p>BYLAWS OFFICERS: As of March 25, 2020, the federal government has made use of the extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act. This unprecedented step allows for several actions, including enabling municipal bylaw officers the ability to guide businesses and the public in complying with the Provincial Health Officer's orders. Bylaw officers can assist with the compliance and enforcement of public health orders by providing education and advice. It is our expectation that everyone will continue to work together to comply with all orders to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If you have further concerns about non-compliance in your community, I invite to you contact your local bylaw office for further information. To ensure bylaw officers address situations that pose the most serious risks to public health and safety, the public is asked to use their judgment and only contact bylaw offices when necessary.</p>
	<p>BUSINESSES REMAINING OPEN: SEE ESSENTIAL SERVICES</p> <p>Only some types of businesses have been ordered to close. Any business or service that has not been ordered to close, and is not identified as an essential service, may remain open if they can adapt their services and workplace to adhere to the orders and recommendations made by the Provincial Health Officer. All organizations and services must follow all the Provincial Health Officer's Orders, notices, and guidance to ensure safe operations and reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.</p> <p>REOPENING - Phase 2 of BC's Restart Plan includes the gradual re-opening of non-essential businesses and sectors we have closed, such as hair salons, restaurants, and pubs, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The re-opening of these businesses relies on their development of operational plans and guidance to provide a safe work environment and compliance with public health orders. WorkSafeBC will work with employers and workers through educational materials, consultation, and workplace inspections to help businesses to restart safely. For more information, I encourage you to visit BC's Restart Plan webpage here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan. Additionally, you can review the WorkSafeBC website for further details and guidance here: https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation.</p>
	<p>Care Facilities:</p> <p>As of March 16, 2020, we moved to restrict visitors in long term care facilities to essential visits only. Essential visits include compassionate visits for end-of-life care and visits that support care plans for</p>

	<p>residents based on resident and family needs. For example, families who routinely visit to provide assistance with feeding or mobility.</p>
	<p>Care Facility Staff: We recognize staff at long-term care and assisted living facilities, including support staff, are all responding courageously to the monumental challenges during this unprecedented time. To protect all staff and residents, an order has been issued for long-term care facilities, private hospitals, assisted living facilities, and provincial mental health facilities recommending all employees, contracted workers, and volunteers work at only one facility to minimize further spread of COVID-19. Using orders under the Public Health and Emergency Programs acts, we have implemented a process to support workers to work at a single facility. This includes development of a new labour agreement that ensures single site workers, at health authority, non-profit, and private facilities, receive an equitable wage and work-hours scheduling stability so they can work at a single site without disrupting services for residents.</p> <p>As the risk differs from facility to facility and in different regions of the province, local medical health officers are in the best position make decisions about the assignment of staff. To aid medical health officers to make informed decisions and improve communication, working groups are being established by regional health boards to make recommendations about the assignment of staff.</p>
	<p>Daycares: Many child care centres have operated safely throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and have continued to support essential service workers in communities across BC. Additional precautions have been taken to maintain the health and safety of employees and the children being cared for.</p> <p>The Provincial Health Officer has released updated health and safety guidelines to help child care centres who have closed to reopen safely as they are able, and to further support those have stayed open. For more information, I welcome you to visit Child Care Response to COVID-19 webpage here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-response-covid-19.</p> <p>Or To support parents who are essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, this government has launched a new resource to access child care for children five years old and younger. This resource will match parents, who are working on the front lines of BC's COVID-19 response, with child care in their communities. For more information on child care for essential service workers, please visit: https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CFD0017-000599.</p> <p>Or Information from the BCCDC states the COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children. As well, children are not the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in child care facilities, schools, or in community settings.</p>
Y	<p>Easing of Restrictions: We will be taking a made-in-BC approach to the easing of restrictions. The BC Restart Plan will lift restrictions in phases, putting safety first, by gradually allowing for more social and economic activity, while closely monitoring health information. BC's Restart Plan is informed by health experts, common sense, and practical decision-making. By moving carefully and deliberately, we will help British Columbians get to a new normal, where more of our social and economic life can resume. Restarting economic activity will look different in BC than in other jurisdictions, because only a small number of sectors in the province were closed by public health order.</p> <p>BC is currently in Phase 2 of the BC Restart Plan and we are seeing a resumption of elective surgeries and regulated health services, the opening of provincial parks for day use, small social gatherings, the re-opening of non-essential businesses, and recalling the legislature for regular sittings. Each phase of the restart plan will be spaced out over intervals of two to four weeks. For more information, I encourage you to visit <i>BC's Restart Plan</i> webpage here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan.</p>
	<p>Essential Services:</p>

	<p>Essential services should and are encouraged to remain open. However, they must still follow the orders and guidance provided by the Public Health Officer to ensure safe operations and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.</p> <p>Complete list of essential services can be found here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/essential-services-covid-19</p>
	<p>ESSENTIAL VISITORS:</p> <p>Since March 16, 2020, visitors in long-term care, assisted living, and acute care facilities who care for vulnerable populations, such as persons with disabilities, have been limited to essential visits only. While restrictions are still in place, amendments were made to the visitor restriction policy after feedback from people in the disability community with the intent to further support clients in care. Essential visits include visits that support care plans for clients based on client and family needs and a support person for those with disabilities is considered essential visitor. For example, someone who is hard of hearing or deaf can have a support person present to aid in communication. For more information, please see: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/reports-publications/covid-19-infection-prevention-control.pdf.</p> <p>Additionally, depending on what community you are in, I would encourage you to review the health authority website to see what restrictions have been applied locally. Please see: Fraser Health Authority: https://www.fraserhealth.ca/ Interior Health Authority: https://www.interiorhealth.ca/ Island Health Authority: https://www.islandhealth.ca/ Northern Health Authority: https://www.northernhealth.ca/ Provincial Health Services Authority: http://www.phsa.ca/ Vancouver Coastal Health Authority: http://www.vch.ca/</p> <p>While much has been done to flatten the outbreak curve, and we are now in Phase 2 of BC's Restart Plan, we must remain extremely cautious as it is far too easy to tip the scales against us and undo the hard work and sacrifices we have all made. We recognize this is a difficult situation, however, visitor restrictions are still necessary and will remain in place to protect the health and safety of patients, clients, and staff. Let's continue to work together to protect our loved ones and communities.</p>
Y	<p>EVENTS/GATHERINGS: There is an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission at gatherings of any size. As a result, by order of the public health officer, events where there are gatherings of larger than 50 people are prohibited and remain prohibited even now that some restrictions have been eased. This is not an order of convenience, but a requirement to protect everyone in our province.</p> <p>As part of BC's Restart Plan, which begins mid-May, some small gatherings of 2-6 people, such as play dates with kids or small numbers of friends gathering outdoors or in homes, are permitted. We are asking everyone to follow the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer and use their common sense when planning or attending such small gatherings. Again, groups larger than 50 give the virus an opportunity to reemerge and no matter how far apart you are, large gatherings are prohibited. For more information, I encourage you to visit <i>BC's Restart Plan</i> webpage here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan.</p>
	<p>Federal Info:</p> <p>GENERAL COVID Government of Canada COVID-19 information at: 1 833-784-4397 or phac.info.aspc@canada.ca. In addition, please visit: www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html</p> <p>RENT RELIEF for SMALL BUSINESS This government recognizes the strain felt by many small businesses across BC who have closed their doors because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, both federal and provincial governments have established the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (CECRA) for small businesses. For more information, I encourage you to visit Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan webpage here: https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html.</p>

	<p>WAGES FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS</p> <p>The Ministry recognizes essential workers are at the heart of our pandemic response and we are relying on them now more than ever. It is for that reason the Federal Government is working with provinces and territories to provide these workers with support to increase the wages of eligible low-income essential workers. These measures are part of a comprehensive economic plan to help Canadians and businesses through this period of uncertainty. For more information about <i>Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan</i>, I encourage you to visit the webpage here: https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html.</p>
	<p>LOCATION OF REPORTED CASES:</p> <p>While we are sharing the numbers of positive tested cases per health authority, we need all British Columbians to be aware of the risk in every community and every health region across the province. Along with those who have tested positive, there are also presumptive cases throughout the province and the public must remain vigilant in their infection control methods. The gravity of the situation cannot be overstated, and everyone must do all they can to support the effort to break the chain of transmission and flatten the outbreak curve.</p> <p>It is important to note, the details of another's care are confidential under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. I am unable to provide details beyond what has already been communicated publicly about confirmed cases of COVID-19. All tips and cases are investigated thoroughly and if any information is found to be credible, it will be announced publicly as previously demonstrated with the cases confirmed so far. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.</p>
	<p>MASKS:</p> <p>(Medical when not sick) Medical grade masks, including surgical, procedural face masks and respirators (like N95 masks) must be kept for our front-line health-care workers. The benefit of wearing masks to our front-line essential services, who are continually working in a high risk environment, cannot be overstated. Due to the pandemic, all personal protective equipment is in extremely high demand and stock is low, both globally and here in BC. We must all do what we can to support our health-care workers so that they can continue to ensure the health and wellbeing of all of us. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>(Non-Medical) COVID-19 is known to spread most often through respiratory droplets. Wearing a non-medical mask is another way to cover your mouth and nose to prevent your respiratory droplets from contaminating others or landing on surfaces. Just like our recommendation not to cough into your hands (instead, cover your cough with tissues or your sleeve), a non-medical mask can reduce the chance of others coming into contact with your respiratory droplets. If wearing a non-medical mask makes you feel safer and stops you from touching your nose and mouth, then it is beneficial, but you must remember not to touch or rub your eyes. However, it is important to note, any mask, no matter how efficient at filtration or how good the seal, will have minimal effect if it is not used together with other preventative measures, such as frequent hand washing and physical distancing. For more information, I invite you to review the COVID-19 Prevention and Risks page: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html.</p>
	<p>PPE:</p> <p>Due to the pandemic, personal protective equipment (PPE) is in extremely high demand; consequently, stock is low, both globally and here in BC. The Ministry and Provincial Health Services Authority Supply Chain, our central, provincial purchasing and procurement organization, are working hard to ensure that medical supplies are being managed and shared across the health care system, prioritizing distribution to ensure availability in the most critical situations.</p> <p>Health authorities have received clear direction on the use of PPE, particularly as it relates to COVID-19, and measures to protect the supply have been established. To bolster our supply in the province, we are</p>

	partnering with the federal government on bulk purchasing and are working to rapidly secure additional PPE from community, industry, and international sources.
	<p>PPE Donations or Selling:</p> <p>Many citizens and organizations have been reaching out with offers of products and services to support British Columbia's COVID-19 response. To help facilitate the coordination, the Province has partnered with the Digital Technology Supercluster and the Business Council of British Columbia to create the COVID-19 Supply Hub, an online platform to co-ordinate, source, and expedite medical supplies and personal protective equipment for provincial health authorities to support front-line health workers fighting COVID-19. The COVID-19 Supply Hub provides a single point of entry to triage and prioritize the thousands of offers and donations for essential supplies and services from business and other organizations since the onset of the COVID-19 response. To donate or supply products or services, please visit the following website to complete the appropriate web form: www.gov.bc.ca/supplyhub.</p>
	<p>SCHOOLS:</p> <p>K-12: As part of BC's Restart Plan, K-12 schools are gradually re-opening and parents will have the choice of bringing their children back to class on a part-time basis. Much has been done to flatten the outbreak curve and this step is one of many on our way to our new normal.</p> <p>To ensure a safe environment for students and staff, the number of students in school each day will be reduced, with most receiving in-class instruction part-time, and schedules will be staggered. School districts will be determining the scheduling for classes and transportation arrangements. Returning to school is voluntary and school leaders will be contacting families to arrange for a return to in-class instruction.</p>
	<p>PHARMACIES & PRESCRIPTION DISPENSING: Community pharmacies are privately-run businesses with an obligation to manage their stock responsibly. As a result of the pandemic, pharmacies faced increased demands for some drugs and in order manage their supply, pharmacies may have reduced the dispensing intervals for some drugs. While the Ministry has directed pharmacies to dispense a full 90-day supply for appropriate prescriptions when feasible, the decision to dispense a smaller amount than the prescription indicates is ultimately made by an individual pharmacy or its parent corporation.</p> <p>While the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia has not issued any direction on limited dispensing, various national and provincial pharmacy associations had recommended a 30-day dispensing policy as a preventative measure against potential drug shortages. However, the initial surge in medication demand has since slowed, and the situation is balancing. Pharmacy associations have now recommended that pharmacies fill the maximum day supply where possible.</p> <p>PharmaCare is a publicly funded program within the Ministry that helps BC residents with the cost of eligible prescription drugs. Dispensing fees of up to \$10 are covered by the Fair PharmaCare plan, provided their deductible and family maximum has been met. For those who have not met their deductible, \$10 of every dispensing fee for eligible drugs goes towards their deductible.</p> <p>If you are having a hard time paying your deductible, the Monthly Deductible Payment Option may benefit you. The program lets you pay your deductible in small payments each month throughout the year. This way, Fair PharmaCare covers 70 percent (75 percent if you or your spouse were born before 1940) of your eligible drug costs right away. This is an option for people who know they will meet their deductible every year. For more information please visit https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents/who-we-cover/fair-pharmacare-plan/increased-assistance-and-payment-options#payment-option or contact Health Insurance BC (HIBC) at 1-800-663-7100. Additionally, those who have lost income due to COVID-19, or for any other reason, can contact HIBC to request an income review. If your income has declined by 10 percent or more since 2018, an income review may allow for your deductible to be adjusted, reflecting your current income for this year.</p> <p>The Ministry recognizes due to local shortages and distributor allocations, pharmacies may still not be able to fill more than a 30-day supply in some cases. On PharmaCare-covered claims, PharmaCare will cover the extra dispensing fees as the patient's PharmaCare coverage allows.</p>

	<p>To help support seniors, the Province has partnered with the United Way and bc211 to launch the Safe Seniors, Strong Communities Program, a province-wide service to match seniors whose support network has been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak with volunteers. Seniors who require assistance with prescription drop-off and medication pick-up can contact bc211 by calling 2-1-1 or visiting www.bc211.ca to be connected with a volunteer.</p> <p>For those who are not a senior and are unable to visit their pharmacy more frequently, many pharmacies offer delivery. I encourage you to continue to work with your pharmacy to explore the options available to you.</p>
	<p>SELF ISOLATION WHEN FAMILY WORKS:</p> <p>Self-isolating at home when a family member in your household continues to work can have its challenges. According to the BCCDC, if you are currently in isolation it is recommended for those you live with to stay elsewhere, especially if they have a weak immune system or chronic health conditions. If you need to share a home, stay and sleep in a room with good airflow that is away from others. Use a separate bathroom if possible. Avoid face to face contact; friends or family can drop off food outside your room or home. If you begin to experience symptoms, wear a face mask (surgical/procedure mask) if you are in the same room with anyone. In the event anyone in your household develops symptoms, even mild, they would need to self-isolate for 14 days as well. For further information about self-isolation, I encourage you to review the BCCDC's Self-Isolation webpage: http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation.</p>
	<p>TRAVEL: Non-essential travel, such as for tourism and recreational purposes, is not advised. This includes non-essential travel within Canada and BC. Avoiding unnecessary travel, particularly to smaller communities, where they may be unable to support you if you get sick and where they have fewer resources, is an important way we can protect ourselves and our loved ones. This also includes non-essential travel to the United States. Those who are currently travelling abroad should return home. Canadians who are currently abroad must register with the Government of Canada here: https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration. Registration enables you to receive important information that could impact your safety.</p> <p>As of March 25, 2020, all international travellers returning to BC from non-essential travel are required by law to self-isolate for 14 days and submit a self-isolation plan. Failure to comply with a quarantine order is an offense under the Quarantine Act. Maximum penalties include a fine of up to \$750,000 and/or imprisonment for six months. Spot checks will be conducted to verify compliance. Self-isolation does not apply to those for whom travel is essential, such as cross-border trucking, health care workers providing patient care, or other types of essential travel. To submit a self-isolation plan, please visit: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/self-isolation-on-return. It is our expectation that people will follow this direction as part of their civic duty and legal obligation.</p>
	<p>VACCINE: Immunization saves millions of lives every year and is widely recognized as one of the world's most successful and cost-effective health interventions. Unfortunately, there is no vaccine available for COVID-19 at this time. Clinical trials are currently underway, but it will take time to develop a viable vaccine. Until a vaccine is available the most important actions we can take are to continue to following the Provincial Health Officer's orders, maintain physical distancing measures, practice coughing etiquette, and staying home when we are sick.</p>
	<p>WORKSAFE BC:</p> <p>WorkSafeBC for COVID-19 information and resources: https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates. According to WorkSafeBC, workers in BC have the right to refuse work if they believe it's unsafe. Safety concerns should be reported to your employer and investigated immediately. Any necessary corrective actions must be made promptly. You may also wish to call WorkSafeBC's Health and Safety Information line at 1-888-621-SAFE. You'll be able to speak to a prevention officer to get answers to your questions, and if required, a prevention officer can assess the health and safety risk at your workplace.</p>

Current Messaging:

Information received from Health Emergency Coordination Centre (HECC) on June 8, 2020:

- There are no plans for another faith leaders call as yet, but if you pass along Anne Lam's email the Premier's Office can add her to any potential future list.
- Unfortunately, they don't have transcripts of the conversations.

PCR Phone Team
Name & Phone Number: Adam Smith 236-478-0437
Follow up required: None

EMAIL RESPONSE

1167353

Yahya Momla
Imam BC Muslim Association
Secretary of Board of Religious Affairs
yahya.momla@thebcma.com

Dear Yahya Momla:

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 2020, regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. I apologize for the delayed response.

Protecting the health and safety of British Columbians is the top priority of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). BC has begun the process of re-opening, re-starting, and easing the restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our made-in-BC approach will lift restrictions in phases, putting safety first, by gradually allowing for more social and economic activity, while closely monitoring health information. BC's Restart Plan is informed by health experts, common sense, and practical decision-making. By moving carefully and deliberately, we can help to keep our curve flat, respond effectively, and protect the health of our most vulnerable.

Evidence has shown there is an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission at gatherings of any size. As a result, by order of the Public Health Officer, events where there are gatherings of larger than 50 people are prohibited and remain prohibited even now that some restrictions have been eased. When people gather, we still must consider the need for physical distancing. Not physical distancing as an alternative to the limit of 50 people, but physical distancing *and* the limit of 50 people. The measures in place were implemented after careful thought and consideration and circumventing them can increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Though we are in Phase 3 of BC's restart, constant vigilance is still required to ensure the sacrifices we have all made thus far are not in vain.

In-person classes can be operated safely by adopting the BC Centre for Disease Control's (BCCDC) recommended public health principles. These principles include staying away from others if you are sick yourself, ensuring frequently touched surfaces are cleaned often, minimizing physical contact, cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs, and practicing respiratory etiquette by coughing or sneezing into your elbow sleeve. For more information, I welcome you to review the BCCDC website here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools>.

As you may know, the BCCDC has provided COVID-19 guidance for faith-based organizations. This document remains the best resource you can use to develop safety plans and re-open safely. Please note, it is not within the purview of this Ministry to review or approve individual plans and we are unable to provide further guidance on this topic. We encourage everyone to take the

time they need to think about how they are going to adapt their activities to the new ways of operating in our province. To review the BCCDC *COVID-19 Guidance to Faith-Based Organizations* document, please see: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/community-settings/faith-based-organizations>.

For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, I invite you to visit the BCCDC website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>. Additionally, a dedicated phone service is available to provide non-health related information about COVID-19 by calling 1 888-COVID19 (1 888-268-4319). A service representative is available seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and information is available in more than 110 languages. For more information about BC's response to COVID-19, I welcome you to visit our webpage at: www.gov.bc.ca/covid19.

Now more than ever we need people in BC to be tolerant, kind, calm, and safe in our community. Let's continue to work together to keep our province strong.

Thank you again for writing. I appreciate the opportunity to respond, and hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Thomas Guerrero
Executive Director

From: [Heinze, Laura R HLTH:EX](#)
To: [Sagar, Brian HLTH:EX](#); [Wood, Susan D HLTH:EX](#)
Cc: [Hrycuik, Lorie HLTH:EX](#); [Byres, David W HLTH:EX](#); [Corneil, Trevor HLTH:EX](#); [HLTH HECCEXTDOC HLTH:EX](#)
Subject: RE: COVID-19_Guidance to Faith Based_revised_March 31
Date: March 31, 2020 6:18:11 PM
Attachments: [COVID-19_Guidance to Faith Based_revised_March 31.pdf](#)
[COVID-19_Guidance to Faith Based_revised_March 31.docx](#)

Thx – have made those here, and also attached a pdf for Trevor

From: Sagar, Brian HLTH:EX <Brian.Sagar@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 31, 2020 5:54 PM
To: Wood, Susan D HLTH:EX <Susan.Wood@gov.bc.ca>; Heinze, Laura R HLTH:EX <Laura.Heinze@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hrycuik, Lorie HLTH:EX <Lorie.Hrycuik@gov.bc.ca>; Byres, David W HLTH:EX <David.Byres@gov.bc.ca>; Corneil, Trevor HLTH:EX <Trevor.Corneil@gov.bc.ca>; HLTH HECCEXTDOC HLTH:EX <HECC.EXTDOC@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: COVID-19_Guidance to Faith Based_revised_March 31

A few 11th hour notes:

- “Instruct congregants not to share food” is bold faced. I don’t think that is a special point of emphasis in the doc, so doesn’t need a bold font.
- Suggest updating the two dates to March 31.
- The final link to the ‘deceased persons’ guidance is not an active link that folks can click on.

Brian

From: Wood, Susan D HLTH:EX <Susan.Wood@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 31, 2020 5:46 PM
To: Heinze, Laura R HLTH:EX <Laura.Heinze@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hrycuik, Lorie HLTH:EX <Lorie.Hrycuik@gov.bc.ca>; Byres, David W HLTH:EX <David.Byres@gov.bc.ca>; Corneil, Trevor HLTH:EX <Trevor.Corneil@gov.bc.ca>; Sagar, Brian HLTH:EX <Brian.Sagar@gov.bc.ca>; HLTH HECCEXTDOC HLTH:EX <HECC.EXTDOC@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: COVID-19_Guidance to Faith Based_revised_March 31

If it has been reviewed and approved by everyone else, nothing further needed from me.

On Mar 31, 2020, at 5:40 PM, Heinze, Laura R HLTH:EX <Laura.Heinze@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi all,

Attached is an updated document for faith-based organizations, as requested by the MO. This has incorporated both Trevor and Brian’s feedback and I think is much more current and relevant.

Any edits or concerns with this been sent on to the MO and updated online?

Thx

Laura

<COVID-19_Guidance to Faith Based_revised_March 31.docx>



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



HOW YOU CAN SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Take care of others by taking care of yourself.

Wash your hands, don't touch your face, and stay home if you are sick.

Stay at Home and Physically Distance

Stay at home whenever you can. Maintain 2 meters distance from those outside of your household.

COVID-19 Guidance to Faith-Based Organizations

March 28, 2020

The unfamiliar nature of COVID-19 contributes to uncertainty and concern in society, particularly when misinformation competes with facts. As pillars of strength in communities, faith-based services have an important role in connecting the community, contributing to beneficial and safe social interactions as well as our outbreak response, like the current COVID-19 pandemic.

This document provides faith-based organizations with guidance – based on what we know about COVID-19 to date – on how to plan and prepare, prevent infection, and protect members that access and work for these organizations.

What we know about coronaviruses and COVID-19

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses found mostly in animals. In humans, they can cause diseases that range from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The viruses are spread through large liquid droplets when a person infected with a coronavirus coughs or sneezes; the virus in these droplets can enter through the eyes, nose, or throat of another person if they are in close contact with the person who coughed or sneezed. The virus does not transmit through particles in the air and is not something that can come in through the skin.

The new coronavirus that is circulating around the globe causes a disease called COVID-19. While many of the characteristics of COVID-19 are still unknown, mild to severe illness has been reported for confirmed cases. The symptoms of COVID-19, are similar to other respiratory illnesses, including the flu and common cold. They include cough, sneezing, fever, sore throat and difficulty breathing. Until more is understood about the virus, older people and people with a weakened immune system or underlying medical condition are considered at higher risk of severe disease.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days and until symptoms resolve. A Self-Assessment Tool has also been developed to assess your symptoms: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>.

At this time, to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities, the Provincial Health Officer has ordered that [no public gatherings or events of more than 50 people take place](#). If you are planning a smaller event, it is important to ensure that physical distancing is possible – so people are able to maintain at least two metres (or 6 feet) between them at all times.



Ministry of Health



BC Centre for Disease Control

If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.

Non-medical inquiries (ex. travel, physical distancing): 1-888-COVID19 (1888-268-4319) or text 604-630-0300



As there are now confirmed COVID-19 cases in all regions of B.C., it is important for faith-based organization to support clergy, workers, congregation members, families and visitors in staying safe and healthy.

To help prevent COVID-19 virus transmission

There are plenty of practices that your organization can take to ensure that you are doing your part in preventing the spread of infection. As there are now confirmed COVID-19 cases in all regions of B.C., the following are activities you should undertake:

- Wherever possible, use online tools to connect with others virtually for services, meetings and events. Consider cancelling all non-essential in-person services, meetings and events.
- If you do still hold services, meetings, or events, ensure that people gather in small groups of 5 to 10, and that social distancing (2 metres / 6 feet) between members can be maintained.
- Remind congregants and members to stay at home if any of their direct family members (or people they have regular contact with) are unwell.
- The most important thing you can do to prevent COVID-19 is to wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face. Visit the BC Centre for Disease Control's website for a hand hygiene poster that you can print and post in your space: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/signage-posters>
- Ensure the washrooms are always well stocked with liquid soap and paper towels and that warm running water is available. Antibacterial soap is not required to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow when coughing or sneezing and avoid others who are unwell. Cough into your elbow or use a tissue to avoid coughing or sneezing into either your hands or into the air. Dispose of used tissues right away into an appropriate receptacle and immediately wash your hands.
- Provide COVID-19 prevention supplies during services or events, such as plain soap, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, tissues, and waste baskets.
- Minimize religious or cultural practices that involve person-to-person contact such as hands and faces, shared cups or vessels. If there are practices which must take place, ensure all sanitary and safety measures are taken, including hand washing or using hand sanitizer after each contact/ every person, but minimize all unnecessary contact whenever possible.
- When collections are taken, all those who handle cash or coins must wash their hands frequently with soap and water. There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 can be passed on to others by touching or handling cash.
- Instruct congregants not to share food, utensils, glasses and dishes. COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplets released when you cough or sneeze and is left on shared items and eating implements, such as forks and glasses.
- Avoid communal or buffet style meals but identify an alternative, such as pre-packaged meals.
- Encourage everyone to wash their hands with plain soap and water OR an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with a minimum of 60% alcohol content), before and after services, meetings, or events.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, countertops, bathrooms and other surfaces at least once a day. Regular household cleaning products are effective at eliminating COVID-19. Follow the directions on the product label.



- Encourage members to greet each other with a smile and wave, as opposed to any direct person-to-person contact.
- For any religious or cultural burial or funeral practices, please take the time to review the updated BC CDC provincial guidance for handling deceased persons: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/deceased-persons>

What about Face Masks?

If you are sick, you should wear a face mask around other people and before you enter a health care provider office or hospital. If you are not able to wear a face mask, you should try your best to cover coughs and sneezes.

If you are not sick, you do not need to wear a face mask unless you are caring for someone who is sick, and that person cannot wear a face mask. Face masks may be in short supply during an outbreak and should be saved for caregivers.

March 31, 2020
COVID-19 Guidance to Faith-Based Organizations



From: [Wood, Susan D HLTH:EX](#)
To: [HLTH HECCEXTDOC HLTH:EX](#)
Subject: FW: document for faith leaders
Date: March 31, 2020 7:29:49 AM
Attachments: [Recommendations for Faith-Based Organizations on Mass Gatherings AEC.pdf ATT00001.htm](#)
[List of Questions from Interfaith Leaders Call March 11, 2020.docx ATT00002.htm](#)
Importance: High

Good morning. I hope everyone is doing well and getting some rest.

For MO request:

Let me know if I can share the updated doc on BC CDC website [Faith Based Organizations Mass Gatherings](#) (March 18) while you continue to work on answers to the questions. I would rather share something sooner than later, and the guidance doc may suffice for the invitation she wants to send out.

Thank you
Susan

From: Wood, Susan D HLTH:EX
Sent: March 30, 2020 6:33 PM
To: HLTH HECCEXTDOC HLTH:EX
Subject: Fwd: document for faith leaders

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Corneil, Trevor HLTH:EX" <Trevor.Corneil@gov.bc.ca>
Date: March 30, 2020 at 6:20:23 PM PDT
To: "van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX" <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>, "Wood, Susan D HLTH:EX" <Susan.Wood@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX" <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>, "Pham, Thuy HLTH:EX" <Thuy.Pham@gov.bc.ca>, "Heinze, Laura R HLTH:EX" <Laura.Heinze@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: document for faith leaders

Hi Amanda, Bringing in Susan Wood will be helping us manage all the document requests coming in to the PHO office / MOH from different DMs etc. Laura will mark the recommendations for faith based organization for review ASAP. We're on it.

Best,

Trevor

604 218 5718

From: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 30, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Corneil, Trevor HLTH:EX <Trevor.Corneil@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>; Pham, Thuy HLTH:EX <Thuy.Pham@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: document for faith leaders

Good afternoon Trevor,

The attached .pdf was prepared by someone within the Ministry to send out after our initial call with Faith Based leaders (on March 11). Unfortunately, it did not ever get sent out.

We are planning on sending out an updated set of guidance based on the pdf, but also answering the follow up questions that came in via email after that call (included in the word doc).

Are you or a member of your team able to update this with quick turnaround so we can send it out as part of an invitation we are intending to send out shortly, inviting them all to a follow up call?

I expect that call to occur on Wednesday or Thursday and as such would need to have it update fairly quickly. Is that possible?

Happy to have a quick chat if that is also easier.

A

Amanda van Baarsen

Sr Ministerial Assistant to

Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health

Room 337 | Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC | V8V 1X4

(P) 778-974-5075 (C) 778-678-3454

Pronouns: she/hers

**COVID-19 QUESTIONS FROM INTERFAITH LEADERS
MARCH 11TH CALL**

1. Ritchie
 2. Hecht
 3. Swanson
 4. Greenhough
 5. Manji
 6. Ponak
 7. Fong
 8. Sparks
 9. Brown (NOTE – no question, comment only)
 10. Carelse-Borzel for Archbishop Mikler (NOTE – no question, just copied their response members)
-

1. From: Flyn Ritchie <flynritchie@gmail.com>; **Sent:** March 11, 2020 1:38 PM

I gather there is a conference call involving Premier Horgan, Minister Dix, Dr. Bonnie Henry and several faith leaders this afternoon.

I would appreciate receiving any notice / press release or whatever you might be planning to send out about the event, if possible. Or just a sense from you about the purpose of the conference call.

I post four stories every Wednesday night on Church for Vancouver, which is read quite widely by local Christian leaders and others.

One of those stories is about the church and COVID-19 – and it would obviously be very helpful to be able to include something about the conference call.

I hope to hear from you.

Flyn Ritchie
ChurchforVancouver.ca

s.22

2. From: Rabbi Shmuly Hecht rabbi@jewishokanagan.com; **Sent:** March 11, 2020 9:10 PM

Thank you so much for this.

I'm sorry to have missed it. Is there a recording by any chance?

Thank you again for your care and concern.

RSH

3. From: pastorrebekah@firstlutheranvancouver.com; **Sent:** March 11, 2020 6:14 PM

I was unable to attend the conference call. Will the information that was shared be posted somewhere? Or was the conversation recorded for those who were unable to call in?

Rev. Rebekah Swanson
First Lutheran Vancouver

4. From: lgreenhough@shaw.ca; **Sent:** March 11, 2020 2:22 PM

I was hoping to ask these questions during the conference call just ended.

1. My understanding is that people can be carrying the COVID 19 virus before they are symptomatic. People in my (primarily elderly) congregation know to stay home if they are symptomatic- our bigger concern is the former category. Short of stopping all gatherings how do we prepare for potential community transmission when people are not yet showing signs of illness?

2. Along with that question is the question regarding the arc of transmission - realizing we have no magic balls to help predict, our concern is for big communal events coming up for Passover. We have to buy supplies for an event four weeks from now, yet may need to cancel. How do we most effectively calibrate timing for cancelling events and services?

3. I work with our Jewish burial society. We are all volunteers; we wash and dress our deceased in preparation of their burial. We use universal precautions, (gowns, gloves) but probably don't have enough face masks. What is the life of this virus on the body of the deceased?

I add my gratitude to all that was voiced; to you, to Dr. Henry and to all working to protect our safety

Rabbi Lynn Greenhough Kolot Mayim Reform Temple, Victoria,

5. From: Farouq Manji farouq.manji@iicanada.net; **Sent:** March 11, 2020 10:14 PM

Thank you again for the opportunity to hear from you and others on COVID-19 and how faith communities need to be vigilant and prudent in our spaces and congregations.

Our questions:

1. Will these Calls continue for faith communities?
2. Our community congregates on a daily basis, morning and evening, and one of our practices is the offering of prayers from our ceremonial leads - the gesture includes the holding of one's hand as prayers are offered. This is a traditional practice. Any thoughts on this under the current circumstances?

Farouq Manji, Member for Community Relations
Ismaili Council for BC, 604.671.2651

6. From: Rabbi Matt rabbimattponak@gmail.com; **Sent:** March 11, 2020 2:17 PM

I was on the call with the other clergy that just ended. Thank-you for taking the time to speak with us. For some reason, even though I pressed the correct buttons, my question was not received or acknowledged during the call.

I am wondering about two things that perhaps Dr. Henry could answer:

1. In the most ideal situation, would all of our community meetings be online? That is to say, if it was possible, should we simply not have community gatherings in person anymore, until we get passed this?

I ask this because I believe that life and health come above all else, including religious services. If it was possible, I would want us to do what would be best for our communities and for the broader city, province, country, and world, and I want to know if that is to simply stop meeting in person. Or, would that would be too hasty at this point?

2. Could you give more information on the best way to do communal meals, if they did take place? Is buffet style not advisable? And are pre-packaged individual meals are best? Just trying to clarify.

Again, thank-you so much for this opportunity.

Rabbi Matt Ponak

7. From: LOTUS lymt009@lymtcanada.com; **Sent:** March 11, 2020 7:27 PM

Thanks for taking your time to have call conference with us. I am a nun of Lingyen Mountain Temple in Richmond. Our temple has taken precautionary measures against the potential spread of Covid_19.

The temple is closed to the public since February 12 until further notice.

I suggest Canadian government can learn from Taiwan's experience: These have included measures regarding border controls, case identification, quarantine, resource allocation, delivering information to the public, and extending school vacation closures. Taiwan used cellphone tracking, big data Analytics to contain spread of COVID-19 — should Canada do the same?

Following the 2003 SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) epidemic, which killed 73 in Taiwan, the highest number outside China and Hong Kong, the government passed legislation to facilitate a more effective response to future outbreaks. Infrastructure developed by the NHCC (National Health Command Center) enabled a remarkably quick response to initial reports from Wuhan, with Taiwanese health officials boarding flights from the region as early as Dec. 31 to check passengers for symptoms. On Jan. 20, President Tsai Ing-wen announced that current Health Minister would personally supervise operations and host daily news conferences to keep the public informed. And as the seriousness of the outbreak became clear, the legislature passed a special bill allocating 60 billion New Taiwan dollars (\$2 billion) to fund containment and

control efforts, including **border control**, paid leave for caregivers and the sick, the manufacture of essential equipment like face masks, **forming protocols for tracing sources of infection and reducing the risk of transmission in settings such as schools, hospitals and transportation systems**.

But one innovation proving especially useful as COVID-19 spreads has been the integration of data from Taiwan's National Health Insurance Administration and the National Immigration Agency, so that hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies islandwide have access to patients' travel histories in order to identify individuals for testing who have traveled to high risk locations. Anyone considered high risk was put into quarantine at home and tracked through their mobile phone to ensure that they remained at home during the incubation period.

Above is our suggestion. Thanks.

Shiu Fong, Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada)

8. From: William Sparks <[s.22](#)> **Subject:** emerging question in north vancouver

I am a minister in North Vancouver and need to talk to someone in the ministry of health who can help us decide about cancelling a series of events that are borderline 250 people. Can you give me a contact number?

Rev. Will Sparks, Lead Minister, Highlands United Church, 778-968-7718

9. From: Anthony Brown anthonyb@firstbc.org; **Sent:** March 11, 2020 2:11 PM

Outstanding call. Very grateful to each of the participants.

Anthony Brown, Senior Minister, First Baptist Church, Vancouver

10. From: Roland Carelse-Borzel <rcavbishop@rcav.org>
Sent: March 12, 2020 9:42 AM

At the request of Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, I am forwarding for your information a memo sent out yesterday evening to all clergy, parishes, school principals, and staff of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

Roland Carelse-Borzel, Executive Assistant to the Archbishop
Archdiocese of Vancouver, (604) 443-3203 (direct), (604) 683-0281 ext. 50446

Memorandum

Dear Fathers, Deacons, Parish Admin Staff:

This afternoon, British Columbia Premier John Horgan, Minister of Health Adrian Dix and Public Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry held a teleconference with faith community leaders from across the Province to discuss preventative measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. They emphasized that the situation is continuously evolving, and new recommendations will be made as circumstances warrant. Daily briefings on the coronavirus situation are posted each afternoon on <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.

Arising from today's consultation, the following temporary measures are to be put in place immediately in all parishes of the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

Sunday Obligation

Out of consideration for the well-being of others in the community, the elderly, anyone with an underlying health condition and those who feel even remotely unwell are excused from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass.

If they have access to television or the internet, those who remain at home may watch Mass. Attached to this memo is also a Prayer for Spiritual Communion which may also be used in these circumstances.

In order to reduce social isolation, parishes are encouraged to find ways to mobilize people to make phone calls to those who must remain at home, and to provide services such as delivering food and necessary items. Being in regular contact with the parish community will alleviate loneliness for the homebound.

Reception of Holy Communion

As a result of direct consultation with the Public Health Officer, the faithful are strongly recommended to receive Holy Communion only in the hand.

Those distributing Holy Communion are encouraged to avoid direct skin-to-skin contact when placing the Host into the hands of the faithful. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should not receive the Precious Blood before the general distribution of Holy Communion. Hand sanitizers should be used, or washing carefully with soap and water practiced, *before and after* the distribution of Holy Communion. Furthermore, no one should feel obligated to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion if they would rather not at this time.

Respecting the right of the faithful to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, an announcement is to be made, beginning on the weekend of March 14/15 and for all subsequent Masses during this period, that those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue should come forward **after** all other communicants have received. Alternatively, one priest, deacon or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion can be designated specifically to distribute Communion only on the tongue.

Kiss of Peace

For all Masses, it is recommended that celebrants/deacons omit the Kiss of Peace from the liturgical rite, as is permitted by the Roman Missal.

Parish Events

For all parish activities, the following recommendations should be followed:

- Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations should be available to all at the entrance of the church, parish hall and other parish facilities;

- Meeting rooms should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each activity;
- The Public Health Officer suggests that people maintain a two-metre space (approximately two arms' length) between one another, to reduce any potential transmission of the coronavirus.

These steps are taken solely for the safety of the faithful in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Please join me in praying for all those who have become sick from the coronavirus, those attending to the sick and those working to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. It is my hope that these measures, and any that follow in the coming days, will only be needed for a short time.

Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver



Office of the
Provincial Health Officer



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Recommendations for Faith-Based Organizations on Mass Gatherings

Provincial Coronavirus Response
March 10, 2020



Contents

A. Background.....	2
B. Recommendations	2

Background

Coronaviruses and COVID-19

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses found mostly in animals. In humans, they can cause diseases that range from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The viruses are spread through large liquid droplets when a person infected with a coronavirus coughs or sneezes; the virus in these droplets can enter through the eyes, nose, or throat of another person if they are in close contact with the person who coughed or sneezed. The virus does not transmit through particles in the air and is not something that can come in through the skin.

The new coronavirus that is circulating around the globe causes a disease called COVID-19. While many of the characteristics of COVID-19 are still unknown, mild to severe illness has been reported for confirmed cases. The symptoms of COVID-19, are similar to other respiratory illnesses, including the flu and common cold. They include cough, sneezing, fever, sore throat and difficulty breathing. Until more is understood about the virus, older people and people with a weakened immune system or underlying medical condition are considered at higher risk of severe disease and death.

Anyone concerned that they may have been exposed to, or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, should contact their primary care provider, local public health office, or call 8-1-1.

Purpose of this Document

The unfamiliar nature of COVID-19 contributes to uncertainty and concern in society, particularly when misinformation competes with facts. As pillars of strength in communities, faith-based services play an important role in connecting the community and contribute to beneficial social interactions. Faith-based organizations also have a role to play in preparedness and response to outbreaks.

Many faith-based organizations have questions about how they can protect the health of their community members while continuing to serve their key purposes. This document provides faith-based organizations with guidance – based on what we know about COVID-19 to date – on how to plan and prepare, prevent infection, and protect members that access and work for these organizations. The guidance in this document should be considered a supplement to individualized advice, which is available through the local public health unit.

Recommendations

Plan and Prepare

While the number of cases worldwide is changing quickly, the risk to Canadians – including British Columbians – continues to be low.

However, an increase in COVID-19 cases or an outbreak of COVID-19 could occur in any community; before this happens, it is important to plan what will happen at your faith-based organization and how you will support workers and members. In particular, the following activities will help you plan and prepare for an outbreak:

- **Establish communication with your local public health unit to ensure you have access to relevant information before and during an outbreak.**
 - Find your local public health unit here: <https://immunizebc.ca/finder>
- **Find out if your local government has a private-public emergency planning group that meets regularly.**
 - Building alliances before an outbreak may help your organization with the supports needed to respond effectively and will help local government engage in a whole community approach to emergency planning.
- **Plan for worker absences and develop flexible attendance and sick-leave policies.**
- **Plan ways to continue services if on-site operations need to be scaled back.**
 - Can your organization offer virtual participation, live streaming to allow participation from a distance, or can you move the venue from indoors to outdoors?
- **Consider how your organization will manage the risks of visits to homes and healthcare facilities.**
 - Ensure no one who is ill conducts visits to homes or health care facilities (including long-term care facilities).
 - Ensure anyone conducting home visits or visits to healthcare facilities is familiar with and able to comply with recommendations for hand cleaning (see poster at the end of this document) and with covering coughs/sneezes.
 - Consider how your organization will assess the health of those requesting visits in their homes or healthcare facilities.
 - When possible, delay visits to anyone who is experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness. If this is not possible (for example, in the case of someone requiring end-of-life faith-based care), consult with the health care facility or patient's medical provider regarding appropriate precautions for visitors.
- **Stay informed about the local situation. Visit:** <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/information-on-novel-coronavirus>.
- **Plan to regularly communicate with members of your faith community about COVID-19 and the steps your organization is taking to reduce risks of transmission.**

Practice Prevention

There are plenty of practices that your organization can take to ensure that you are doing your part in preventing the spread of infection. The following are activities that you should consider doing when there are increased cases of COVID-19 in your community:

- **Protect yourself and others.**

- Remind congregants and members to not come to services, meetings, or events if they feel unwell. Stay home if you are sick.
- The most important thing you can do to prevent COVID-19 is to wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face. See the poster at the end of this document and feel free to print and post it in your space.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and avoid others who are unwell.
- Consider providing COVID-19 prevention supplies during services or events, such as soap, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, tissues, and waste baskets.
- Encourage members to wash their hands with soap and water before services and use hand sanitizer before engaging in services that involve person-to-person contact.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, countertops, and other surfaces. Use regular cleaning and disinfecting practices where people gather.
- Encourage members to greet each other with smile and wave.
- Consider, in consultation with faith leadership, any elements of services involving touching of shared objects or consumption of food/liquids from shared containers, and whether these can be temporarily halted or altered.
- Reduce or eliminate communal or buffet style meals but identify an alternative, such as pre-packaged meals.
- Consider supporting the host of the service or event in participating in kind for activities that normally are shared by members and visitors. Recommendations on support for childcare areas can be found here: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)#Community--resources](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel)#Community--resources).

What about Face Masks?

If you are sick, you should wear a face mask around other people and before you enter a health care provider office or hospital. If you are not able to wear a face mask, you should try your best to cover coughs and sneezes.

If you are not sick, you do not need to wear a face mask unless you are caring for someone who is sick, and that person cannot wear a face mask. Face masks may be in short supply during an outbreak and should be saved for caregivers.



COVID-19 Hand Hygiene

SOAP OR ALCOHOL-BASED HAND RUB: Which is best?

Either will clean your hands:
use soap and water if hands are visibly soiled.



Remove hand and wrist jewellery

HOW TO HAND WASH



1
Wet hands with warm
(not hot or cold)
running water



2
Apply liquid or foam soap



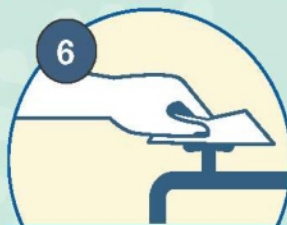
3
Lather soap covering
all surfaces of hands
for 20-30 seconds



4
Rinse thoroughly
under running water



5
Pat hands dry thoroughly
with paper towel



6
Use paper towel
to turn off the tap

HOW TO USE HAND RUB



1
Ensure hands are visibly
clean (if soiled, follow hand
washing steps)



2
Apply about a loonie-sized
amount to your hands



3
Rub all surfaces of your hand
and wrist until completely
dry (15-20 seconds)

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