

Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Sent: January 14, 2021 6:11 PM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Cc: Parte, Maura HLTH:EX; Lewis, Cameron F EMBC:EX
Subject: RE: Interprovincial travel restrictions.

Thanks Brian,

You have characterized it well. s.13

s.13

s.13

Bonnie

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health*

s.15; s.19

*Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca*

Phone: s.17; s.19

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

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From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Sent: January 14, 2021 5:12 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: Parte, Maura HLTH:EX ; Lewis, Cameron F EMBC:EX
Subject: RE: Interprovincial travel restrictions.

Hi Bonnie.

Further to our discussion about s.13

s.13

s.13

s.13

Cameron – after our call and further to my email to the ADM of Parks, s.13
s.13

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 s.17 F. 250.952. 1713 brian.emerson@gov.bc.ca

From: Lewis, Cameron F EMBC:EX <Cameron.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 12, 2021 3:05 PM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Parte, Maura HLTH:EX <Maura.Parte@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Interprovincial travel restrictions.

Hello Dr. Emerson,

There was a discussion at DMC Covid today around interprovincial travel restrictions. s.13
s.13

s.13

I can keep you posted on this work. Let me know if you have any questions though.

Cameron Lewis | Executive Lead
Emergency Management Modernization Unit
[Emergency Management BC](#)
Phone: 778-698-4897 Cell: 250-213-6882

24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1 800 663-3456
Follow us on Twitter [@EmergencyInfoBC](#) and [@PreparedBC](#)

Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Ranson, David ENV:EX
Sent: November 5, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Subject: RE: Seeking advice re capacity limits

Hi Brian – I imagine you have been very busy with the latest developments, but I did want to check in to see if your team has had a chance to consider this or still anticipate being able to? We are moving quickly now to the point where we need to lock our capacity limits in place for the coming season and a lot hangs around whether we can move forward with these numbers or have to make changes.

Thanks for your time.

David

David Ranson

Executive Director
BC Parks – Provincial Services Branch
Ministry of Environment
Phone: 778.698.4298

From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 6, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Seeking advice re capacity limits

Hi David.

Thanks for the info and no problem responding well before then.

Will be in touch.

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
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From: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 5, 2020 5:20 PM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Seeking advice re capacity limits

Hi Brian – thank you for your willingness to look at this – it is very much appreciated. Our deadline for finalizing capacity limits is early December. We need to land them by then to open our website and reservation reservations in December and January.

I believe Jim forwarded you the specific question with regards to our capacity limits on double sites. We used to allow those to be divided and sold in halves to separate unconnected camping parties. This year and going forward, we are renting them as one unit for one connected party of campers but need to land the max. number of occupants. I'm not sure if Jim mentioned our group camping sites – we repurposed those this year for extended families/bubbles of 16. We plan to keep that in place for the coming year with a slightly revised capacity limit of 20 + 5 daytime guests.

If it would help, we'd be happy to walk you through the specifics. Gaining the benefit of your office's advice would be a great help for us.

Many thanks,
David

David Ranson

Executive Director
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From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 5, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Seeking advice re capacity limits

Hi Jim and thanks for this query.

I have been doing some working on this type of issue (albeit from a perspective of indoors) with someone in our office so this is good timing. I will forward for her perspective.

What is your timing for a response?

Thanks.

Brian

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From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 1, 2020 2:46 PM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Seeking advice re capacity limits

Good afternoon Brian.

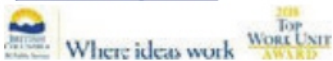
As we enter our “quiet” season in BC Parks we are already thinking towards next season and any operating changes that we need to make based on our learnings from this first year under COVID. One of the bigger issues (albeit small in comparison perhaps to some of the other questions around COVID) relate to spacing/social distancing in outdoor circumstances. In particular setting capacity limits for double campsites. Attached is an email from my technical lead that gives the background to how we have been approaching the question. I am hoping you could give it a quick look and 1) let us know if you support the methodology and 2) let us know if there would be any concerns from a public health perspective if we went back to our normal capacity limit of 16 (2 parties of 8) on each double site? If this is outside of scope for your office, I totally understand and a simple response indicating this would be fine.

Thanks again. Hope you are keeping well.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
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jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Sidaway-Wolf, Daphne HLTH:EX
Sent: November 18, 2020 10:20 PM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Subject: RE: Seeking advice re capacity limits
Attachments: Camper maximum.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi, Brian,
Some quick thinking on this. Likely not what they were hoping for. One of the key assumptions was that the maximum number of campers would be determined based on the most congested time- night campfire with all campers at one fire.
Sorry for the length.
Daphne



Daphne Sidaway-Wolf, MSc, PEng
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Health Protection Branch
British Columbia Ministry of Health
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From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Sent: November 17, 2020 2:03 PM
To: Sidaway-Wolf, Daphne HLTH:EX
Subject: FW: Seeking advice re capacity limits

Hi Daphne.

Just following up to see if this is still on your radar for response as I had a follow up from the ADM.

Thanks.

Brian

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From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Sent: October 6, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Sidaway-Wolf, Daphne HLTH:EX <Daphne.SidawayWolf@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Seeking advice re capacity limits

Hi Daphne.

Further to our exchange about physical distancing metrics you might find this query and follow up email interesting, and I would appreciate your perspective.

They have a deadline of early December so not big rush for response.

Thanks.

Brian

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From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 1, 2020 2:46 PM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Seeking advice re capacity limits

Good afternoon Brian.

As we enter our "quiet" season in BC Parks we are already thinking towards next season and any operating changes that we need to make based on our learnings from this first year under COVID. One of the bigger issues (albeit small in comparison perhaps to some of the other questions around COVID) relate to spacing/social distancing in outdoor circumstances. In particular setting capacity limits for double campsites. Attached is an email from my technical lead that gives the background to how we have been approaching the question. I am hoping you could give it a quick look and 1) let us know if you support the methodology and 2) let us know if there would be any concerns from a public health perspective if we went back to our normal capacity limit of 16 (2 parties of 8) on each double site? If this is outside of scope for your office, I totally understand and a simple response indicating this would be fine.

Thanks again. Hope you are keeping well.

Jim

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Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: January 15, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX; Wilcock, Leah ENV:EX; Lewis, Cameron F EMBC:EX
Subject: RE: Inter-provincial travel - Seeking rush advice re restricting camping opportunities to BC residents

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thanks Brian. I think that our draft decision note aligns with this. Note that for BC Parks, March Break is not a high use time as most parks do not open for camping until May. The exception is the Lower Mainland/Vancouver Island regions and in those areas we could certainly look at delaying openings if needed.

If it would help with general awareness, I would be happy to arrange a briefing for you, Dr. Henry, or anyone at the PHO on the basic workings of BC Parks. We often do these and they normally take an hour but we could do an abbreviated version in 30 minutes. Let me know if there is interest in doing this.

Thanks
Jim

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From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 15, 2021 9:58 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Wilcock, Leah ENV:EX <Leah.Wilcock@gov.bc.ca>; Lewis, Cameron F EMBC:EX <Cameron.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Inter-provincial travel - Seeking rush advice re restricting camping opportunities to BC residents

Hi Jim. I received some comments from Bonnie on this last evening to inform you DN:

s.13

Thanks.

Brian

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From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX

Sent: January 14, 2021 4:35 PM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Wilcock, Leah ENV:EX <Leah.Wilcock@gov.bc.ca>; Lewis, Cameron F EMBC:EX <Cameron.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Inter-provincial travel - Seeking rush advice re restricting camping opportunities to BC residents

Hi Jim.

I was aware of cross-ministry work on inter-provincial travel happening from discussions with Cameron Lewis of EMBC so am not surprised to hear from you on this question.

It is important to differentiate the public health perspective on prohibiting travel between BC and other provinces and territories, and the public health recommendation about non-essential travel.

s.13

As is always the case with this pandemic, as circumstances change with respect to the epidemiology of the disease our perspectives may also change.

Copying Cameron so he is in the loop of our communication, and Dr. Henry for her awareness and in case she has more to add.

Thanks.

Brian

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From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 14, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Wilcock, Leah ENV:EX <Leah.Wilcock@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Seeking rush advice
Importance: High

Brian,

As part of the exploration of travel restrictions (as reported in media today) BC Parks has been asked to take a decision to the COVID DM committee next week on the restriction/limiting camping opportunities to BC residents as we attempted last year. A key piece of the analysis will center on health drivers. I understand that there has been advice provided that speaks against interprovincial travel restrictions for COVID reasons and I am looking to get your thinking/advice/direction regarding whether there might be a valid COVID benefit to restricting camping opportunities to BC residents. We are on a very tight timeline so any advice you can provide today will be incorporated into the draft DN. Sorry for the rush request but we were given little lead time and your advice will be invaluable in advising on the potential for continuing these measures.

Thanks
Jim

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Hello, Brian,

Thanks for providing the background and map to help with thinking about what might be an appropriate loading of people on a double campsite.

Some assumptions:

- Develop the maximum number of campers, N , that could be safely accommodated in a double campsite during the COVID pandemic.
- Base this number N on the most congested use of space during a camping event.
- Highest and most congested use would likely be around one of the two campfires, with all parties from the double campsite around the single fire. (Clearly use would depend on age of campers, frequency of camping at that campground etc. There may be another fire in the other pit for people of a certain age (teens, young adults), so the campers may not all gather around one fire. They may also go to another campsite.) For the purpose of estimating safe numbers, the highest level of congregation is used.
- Care should be taken not to assume 14, 16 or 20+ people are in the same bubble. We are speaking of the safe 6, and if 20 people were to camp together (and have guests) there are times when congregation would be likely to occur. Most of the campers are unlikely to be in the same bubble.
- Gathering around the campfire is likely to include some consumption of alcoholic beverages which tends to reduce inhibitions and may result in reducing physical distancing without masks.

Some data and formulas:

- V =Venue area, or the total area in which people could gather, and includes encumbrances on which people could not gather.
- V is assumed to be the entire area hatched on the plan, plus the small 35 degree wedge, plus the 1 m ring on the outside of the semicircle, (see left hand campsite in the double campsite- this would be a full half circle of radius of at least $r=5.3\text{m} + 1\text{m}=6.3\text{m}$).
- Total venue area that would be most likely be used would be $V=\pi r^2/2$, i.e. half circle.
- E = Encumbered area would be based on picnic table(s), fire pit, other encumbrances such as chairs, other tables, cooking, cooler and other supplies, toys etc.
- Picnic table with built in benches assumed to be about 4m^2 (for purposes of this example), assume two tables.
- Area of the fire pit estimated as 3.1m^2 , using a radius of the fire pit of say 0.75m plus 0.25m from edge of pit to people, to get encumbrance from the pit),
- Cooler, assumed to be on the ground, could consume an estimated 0.35m^2
- Cooking equipment could consume an estimated 1.5m^2
- Park staff may see some regular encumbrances- sporting equipment, air mattresses etc., so should consider adding these when making a decision about how much space is available.
- A = Area on which campers could be together while safely distancing, e.g. a campfire. $A=V-E$.
- C = Area campers need to maintain physical distance, i.e. 2m separation, $C=5\text{m}^2/\text{person}$
- N = Number of campers that can be safely accommodated in a double campsite, $N= A/C$.

Some calculations:

Let's calculate how many people can be in the campsite.

First we need the unencumbered area on which people can meet, at the most congested event.

So $A = \text{Venue area, } V, \text{ minus the area of the Encumbrances. } A = V - E.$

Assuming all campers are in the half circle on the plan, which includes the fire pit would be $A = V - E$, or around the fire pit

Venue area, $V = \pi r^2 / 2 = \pi \times 6.3^2 / 2 = 62.3 \text{ m}^2$ (this would be larger if the 6.1m radius were used instead of the 5.3 m radius-see plan of campsite- choosing the most conservative approach in this example).

Encumbered area = $[2 \times (A \text{ of table})] + [A \text{ of firepit}] + [A \text{ of cooking equipment}] + [3 \times (A \text{ of coolers})] = (2 \times 4\text{m}^2) + (1 \times 3.1\text{m}^2) + (1 \times 1.5\text{m}^2) + (3 \times 0.35\text{m}^2) = 8\text{m}^2 + 3.1\text{m}^2 + 1.5\text{m}^2 + 1.05\text{m}^2 = 13.65\text{m}^2$

So area for campers $A = V - E = 62.3 \text{ m}^2 - 13.65 \text{ m}^2 = 48.65 \text{ m}^2.$

The Camper area, C , is the area needed for each camp to maintain physical distance of 2m from other campers, i.e. $C = 5\text{m}^2/\text{person}.$

Maximum number of campers that could physically distance $= A/C = (48.65\text{m}^2) / (5\text{m}^2/\text{camper}) = 9.73$ campers, i.e. here, use 10 campers.

So let's explore:

Given that people will be outdoors, with fresh air, could the space per camper be reduced? Possibly, if all conditions were perfect. The nature of campsites is that they are not gym floors, with smooth surfaces. Campers are there for fun and adventure and are not likely to walk around with arms outstretched to ensure 2m of physical distancing.

If a group of 14 people were to camp in a double campground, we can assume that there would be 3 or more families or groups together. IF there were four groups of say 4, 4, 3, and 3, then there could be some economy of space, and the 10 campers could increase IF the people also stayed in their family groups.

The key question is, however, how likely are people to stay in their family groups if they went to the same campground to be together? Not terribly likely.

How likely are campers to wear masks if the PD of 2 m were not possible to maintain? Consider that they would be eating smores and consuming some alcoholic beverages in the outdoors in front of a fire at night.

If a double campsite required the campers to be split into groups so there would be two campfires, then the site could accommodate 20 people who physically distanced. Would people naturally segregate? Depends on the demographics. Teens might be happy to have their own fire; young adults would most likely seek one fire so they could socialize- that's why they chose to hike and camp together; families with children would not be likely to want to have young children out of sight at night in a campground.

This campground scenario is somewhat reminiscent of the vacation rental accommodation scenario. People are essentially moving into the campground as vacation accommodation, so current requirements for spacing in rental vacation accommodation (i.e. family and no visitors) or less stringent requirements of 5m²/person might be considered in setting limits.

While many daytime activities would likely take place out of doors, with lots of space, bad weather could see many of the campers congregating in one area, such as an RV or large tent or tarped area for games etc. By allowing more people on the double campsites than is currently allowed under COVID conditions, there could be increased risk of exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.