

Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Lee, Victoria [FH] <Victoria.Lee@fraserhealth.ca>
Sent: September 29, 2021 7:56 AM
To: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX
Cc: XT:HLTH Brodtkin, Elizabeth
Attachments: Dr Zbar from LLarsen Sept 28 2021 (004).pdf

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Dear Steve, Scott and Bonnie,
Cc Elizabeth Brodtkin

Following up from my brief conversation with Steve this morning, I have attached Surrey School District's letter addressed to Dr. Zbar who is our Medical Health Officer lead for schools. As requested in the letter, Dr. Zbar will be meeting with the board this afternoon re: the request from the board to institute K-12 mask mandate. Bonnie, I believe Elizabeth has been working closely with you on this issue and there will be further discussions today.

Best,
Victoria Lee

September 28, 2021

Via Email: ariella.zbar@fraserhealth.ca

Dr. Ariella Zbar
Medical Health Officer
Fraser Health

Dear Dr. Zbar,

As you are no doubt aware, our school district's experience with COVID seems very different from last year. Our Board of Education is gravely concerned about the rise in COVID cases in young children, which is causing great uncertainty in our schools and in our community. Adding to these stresses is the current notification process which was established in September. Not informing parents of exposures denies families of critical information needed to care for children and make personal decisions for each family. This has also created confusion and has generated misinformation.

To date, in Surrey, we have had over 50 COVID exposure notifications and multiple classes in isolation. Despite this concerning situation, our district has been unable to adequately inform each school community of the situation. Part of the reason for our ongoing concern is certainly linked to the lack of transparency in notifications. We want parents to be informed and we want to keep children safe. We were pleased to see the PHO announce a change in the notification process this afternoon - parents will now be able to know if there has been an exposure at their school. This is a great step towards bringing clarity on the current situation for our staff, students and families.

As a Board, we want to make sure we are taking every possible measure to keep children safe and we recognize that masks are just one layer of protection. The Ministry of Education currently states that "students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools." Clearly the Ministry of Education believes in, and encourages, masks in grades K-3, in addition to the mandate in grades 4-12. Last year, in an Order unique to Surrey, Fraser Health wrote that each Surrey School must "strongly recommend and encourage all Kindergarten to Grade 3 students" to wear a non-medical mask. Your health advice to us shows that you value the role masks play in preventing the spread of COVID. Masks are currently not mandated K-12 and we are asking you now to go further in the interest of our young students' as cases in young children continue to cause concern.

Under the current provincial health guidelines from the BC Centre for Disease Control it states: "*Local public health orders may be placed for whole regions or communities, or for specific businesses or activities within a health authority region.*" We are asking you, as our Regional Medical Health Officer to institute a mask mandate for children K-12 as permitted under the current provincial guidelines.

LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

Surrey Schools – Board of Education 14033 92nd Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3V 0B7
Tel: (604) 595-6300 Fax: (604) 595-6307 www.surreyschools.ca

Finally, we are also asking if you would agree to meet with our Board of Education so that we can better understand any rationale behind a lack of a K-12 mask mandate. We would also like to share our concerns about notifications and see how they are being addressed. Our Board has called an extraordinary meeting for tomorrow evening, and we would welcome a chance for you to hear and respond to our concerns.

We believe that we all have the best interest of our children in mind. Our children and grandchildren go to our schools. We have family and relatives who work in our district. By initiating a K-12 mask mandate and by providing adequate and transparent notifications, we would feel more confident that we are taking all possible steps to ensure the safety of our employees and our children.

Sincerely,



Laurie Larsen
Chairperson, Surrey Board of Education

cc: Dr. Jordan Tinney, Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Sent: September 28, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Daly, Patty [VCH]; XT:Lysyshyn, Mark Dr. HLTH:IN; XT:HLTH Taki, Richard; XT:HLTH Brodtkin, Elizabeth; XT:Tyler, Ingrid FRHA:IN; Kerwin, Oona; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Gustafson, Reka HLTH:IN; XT:HLTH Kosatsky, Tom; XT:Henderson, Sarah ENV:IN; Lakey, William PSA:EX; XT:HLTH Stanwick, Richard; XT:HLTH Fyfe, Murray; Cole Diplock; Luttrell, Gethsemane; XT:HLTH Pollock, Sue; XT:Mema, Dr. Silvina HLTH:IN; Zimmerman, Courtney; Jong Kim (Jong.Kim@northernhealth.ca); Gray, Andrew Dr. HLTH:IN; Corneil, Trevor [NH]; Quibell, Doug; Behn Smith, Daniele HLTH:EX; XT:McDonald, Shannon HLTH:IN; Rongve, Ian HLTH:EX; Therrien, Darlene HLTH:EX; Miller, Haley HLTH:EX; McCaskill, Darrin WCB:EX; Brocklehurst, Thomas WCB:EX; Lovelace, Mary WCB:EX; Harkness, Gordon WCB:EX; Sedun, Jeanne AEST:EX; Brewster, Kevin AEST:EX; Tanaka, Sandra AEST:EX; Beddall, Scott EDUC:EX; Docking, Christie M HLTH:EX; Nicholls, Cloe EDUC:EX; Mckee, Geoffrey [BCCDC]; Gustafson, Reka HLTH:IN; Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX; Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX; Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX; Brazier, Heather M EMBC:EX; Ying-udomrat, Will HLTH:EX; Thiessen-Wale, Katherine HLTH:EX; XT:Amos, Heather HLBC:IN; Lakey, William PSA:EX; Yamanaka, Michael W PSA:EX
Subject: Face Coverings (COVID-19) PHO order
Attachments: Face Coverings September Sept. 28 final.pdf

Good afternoon.

Attached is a revision to this order, which integrates school masking requirements into the order, consistent with the Ministry of Education requirement for mask wearing to grade 4 and up, and for public places the age was moved from 12 to 9 years. Also, the order does not require mask wearing while doing exercise or sport in general society, whereas it does require mask wearing for exercise or sport in school, with the exception of high intensity exercise.

Two other general changes are to provide the option for barriers between worker and the public in inside public spaces, as that had been inadvertently omitted from the previous order, and it clarifies that mask wearing is required in a place of worship and attached premises operated by a faith community when used for secular purposes.

Thanks.

Brian

Dr. Brian P. Emerson, Deputy Provincial Health Officer (acting)
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From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX

Sent: September 2, 2021 12:17 PM

To: Daly, Patty [VCH] <Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>; XT:Lysyshyn, Mark Dr. HLTH:IN <Mark.Lysyshyn@vch.ca>; Taki, Richard <Richard.Taki@vch.ca>; Elizabeth Brodtkin (elizabeth.brodtkin@fraserhealth.ca) <elizabeth.brodtkin@fraserhealth.ca>; Tyler, Ingrid <ingrid.tyler@fraserhealth.ca>; Kerwin, Oona <Oona.Kerwin@fraserhealth.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Reka Gustafson <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>; XT:HLTH Kosatsky, Tom <tom.kosatsky@bccdc.ca>; XT:Henderson, Sarah ENV:IN <Sarah.Henderson@bccdc.ca>; Lakey, William PSA:EX <William.Lakey@gov.bc.ca>; richard.stanwick@viha.ca; XT:HLTH Fyfe, Murray <murray.fyfe@viha.ca>; 'Cole Diplock' <Cole.Diplock@viha.ca>; Luttrell, Gethsemane <Gethsemane.Luttrell@VIHA.CA>; XT:HLTH Pollock, Sue <sue.pollock@interiorhealth.ca>; XT:Mema, Dr. Silvina HLTH:IN <Silvina.Mema@interiorhealth.ca>; Zimmerman, Courtney <Courtney.Zimmerman@interiorhealth.ca>; Jong Kim (Jong.Kim@northernhealth.ca) <Jong.Kim@northernhealth.ca>; Andrew Gray (andrew.gray@northernhealth.ca) <andrew.gray@northernhealth.ca>; Quibell, Doug <Doug.Quibell@northernhealth.ca>; Behn Smith, Daniele <Daniele.BehnSmith@gov.bc.ca>; XT:McDonald, Shannon HLTH:IN <Shannon.McDonald@fnha.ca>; Hryciuk, Lorie <Lorie.Hryciuk@gov.bc.ca>; Rongve, Ian HLTH:EX <Ian.Rongve@gov.bc.ca>; Therrien, Darlene HLTH:EX <Darlene.Therrien@gov.bc.ca>; Miller, Haley HLTH:EX <Haley.Miller@gov.bc.ca>; McCaskill, Darrin <Darrin.McCaskill@worksafebc.com>; Brocklehurst, Tom <Tom.Brocklehurst@worksafebc.com>; Lovelace, Mary WCB:EX (Mary.Lovelace@worksafebc.com) <Mary.Lovelace@worksafebc.com>; Harkness, Gordon <Gordon.Harkness@worksafebc.com>; Sedun, Jeanne AEST:EX <Jeanne.Sedun@gov.bc.ca>; Brewster, Kevin AEST:EX <Kevin.Brewster@gov.bc.ca>; Tanaka, Sandra AEST:EX <Sandra.Tanaka@gov.bc.ca>; Beddall, Scott EDUC:EX (Scott.Beddall@gov.bc.ca) <Scott.Beddall@gov.bc.ca>; Docking, Christie M HLTH:EX <Christie.Docking@gov.bc.ca>; Nicholls, Cloe EDUC:EX <Cloe.Nicholls@gov.bc.ca>; Mckee, Geoffrey [BCCDC] <geoffrey.mckee@bccdc.ca>; Reka Gustafson <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>; Lipp, Jamie <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Matthew <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Cole Winegarden (Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca) <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>; Brazier, Heather <Heather.Brazier@gov.bc.ca>; 'Will.Ying-udomrat@gov.bc.ca' <Will.Ying-udomrat@gov.bc.ca>; Thiessen-Wale, Katherine HLTH:EX <Katherine.ThiessenWale@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Face Coverings (COVID-19) PHO order

Good afternoon. Attached is the “Face Coverings (COVID-19)” PHO order that will posted to the PHO website.

This confirms the details of the previously announced province wide mandatory mask order, reinstating many of the previous requirements that were in the Minister of PSSG mandatory mask order. It is set to expire on October 31.

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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ORDER OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER

(Pursuant to Sections 30, 31, 32, 39 (3), 53, 54 (1) (h), 67 (2) and
69 *Public Health Act*, S.B.C. 2008)

FACE COVERINGS (COVID-19) – SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

The *Public Health Act* is at:

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

TO: BRITISH COLUMBIANS AND VISITORS TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

WHEREAS:

- A. On March 17, 2020 I provided notice under section 52 (2) of the *Public Health Act* that the transmission of the infectious agent SARS-CoV-2, which has caused cases, clusters and outbreaks of a serious communicable disease known as COVID-19 among the population of the Province of British Columbia, constitutes a regional event, as defined in section 51 of the *Public Health Act*;
- B. The presence of virus variants of concern in the Province, in particular the Delta variant, has heightened the risk to the population generally due to the highly transmissible nature of the Delta variant.
- C. Vaccines, which prevent or reduce the risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2, have been and continue to be made available to persons in British Columbia;
- D. While substantial progress has been made in vaccinating the population of BC, there remains significant numbers of unvaccinated people, resulting in increases in cases, hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions. The increase in cases, hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions is primarily, although not exclusively, amongst the unvaccinated.
- E. A person infected with SARS-CoV-2 can infect other people with whom the infected person is in contact;
- F. Unvaccinated persons are at higher risk than vaccinated persons of being infected with SARS-CoV-2 and of transmitting SARS-CoV-2 to other persons.
- G. Most infections occur between unvaccinated people, however, due to the highly transmissible nature of the Delta variant, and in view of the substantial numbers of people in BC who

remain unvaccinated, vaccinated people continue to be likely to be exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and to contract COVID-19.

- H. Evidence is emerging that, although to a lesser extent than unvaccinated people, people who are vaccinated can contract the SARS-CoV-2 virus and be a source of transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to others, further perpetuating the transmission chain.
- I. Unvaccinated people are at a much higher risk of serious complications of COVID-19, which can result in hospitalization, admission to intensive care units and death. In addition to serious impacts on the health of a person who contracts COVID-19, high numbers of seriously ill people can overtax the health care system to the extent that the health care system can be compromised in its ability to deliver health care to other seriously ill people, further endangering public health.
- J. With the onset of fall, the province is entering a period of time when people will be gathering indoors more frequently due to cooler weather and the resumption of kindergarten to grade 12 education and post-secondary education. An increase in indoor gatherings and events is anticipated also due to the relaxation of restrictions on gatherings and events which were relaxed on June 30. The gathering of people indoors facilitates and is expected to accelerate the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 within BC.
- K. Properly worn, face coverings are one measure that has been shown to suppress the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19. The non-wearing of masks by people gathering indoors, some of whom might be infected and some of whom might be susceptible to infection, interferes with the suppression of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- L. I recognize the effect of the measures I am putting in place to protect the health of the residents of BC and, with this in mind, have engaged and will continue to engage in a process of reconsideration of these measures, based upon the information and evidence available to me, including infection rates, sources of transmission, the presence of clusters and outbreaks, particularly in facilities, the number of people in hospital and in intensive care, deaths, the emergence of and risks posed by virus variants of concern, vaccine availability, immunization rates, the vulnerability of particular populations and reports from the rest of Canada and other jurisdictions, with a view to balancing the interests of the people affected by the Order, including constitutionally protected interests, against the risk of harm to residents of BC created by the presence of unvaccinated persons in BC.
- M. I further recognize that constitutionally-protected interests include the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. These rights and freedoms are not, however, absolute and are subject to reasonable limits, prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society. These limits include proportionate, precautionary and evidence-based restrictions to prevent loss of life, serious illness and disruption of our health system and society. When exercising my powers to protect the health of the public from the risks posed by COVID-19, I am aware of my obligation to choose measures that limit the Charter rights and freedoms of British Columbians less intrusively, where doing so is consistent with public health principles;

N. In addition, I recognize the interests protected by the *Human Rights Code* and have taken these into consideration when exercising my powers to protect the health of the public from the risks posed by COVID-19.

O. I have reason to believe and do believe that

- (a) the presence of the public, operators, workers, school staff persons and students, post-secondary staff persons and students, in indoor settings where they intermingle with each other without wearing a face covering constitutes a health hazard under the *Public Health Act*;
- (b) in order to mitigate the risk of the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 arising from the presence of the public, operators and workers, school staff persons and students, post-secondary staff persons and students, in indoor settings where they intermingle without wearing a face covering, it is necessary for me to exercise the powers in sections 30, 31, 32, 39, 53, 54, and 67 (2) of the *Public Health Act* **TO ORDER** as follows:

THIS ORDER REPLACES MY ORDER MADE ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 WITH RESPECT TO FACE COVERINGS IN INDOOR PUBLIC SPACES.

Definitions

1 In this order:

“classroom” means an inside area in which a school or, post-secondary institution provides instruction in an educational or training program;

“face covering” means either of the following that covers the nose and mouth of a person:

- (a) a medical or non-medical mask;
- (b) a tightly woven fabric;

but does not include a small or large clear plastic face shield

“fitness facility” means a place used for fitness activities, including a gym, except in a school space or a post-secondary space, fitness studio or dance studio;

“high intensity physical activity” means an activity involving sustained increased respiration rates and elevated heart rates;

“hotel” includes a motel, inn, bed and breakfast, hostel or other place in which rooms are maintained for the accommodation of the public;

“indoor public space” means the indoor area of any of the following but does not include a working area

- (a) a building or structure that is provided for the common use of all occupants and invitees of the building or structure, including lobbies, hallways, public bathrooms and elevators, that is used as
 - (i) a retail business,
 - (ii) a service business,

- (iii) an office building other than office, cubicle or other room in an office building to which a member of the public has been invited by an operator or worker for the purpose of receiving a service;
- (iv) a hotel,
- (v) a restaurant, pub, bar or other business that prepares and sells food or drink,
- (vi) a mall or shopping centre,
- (vii) a pharmacy,
- (viii) a fitness facility or a sport facility,
- (ix) a place in which a non-profit organization provides goods or services to the public,
- (x) a place that provides cultural, entertainment or recreational services or activities, including a theatre, cinema, concert hall, arcade, billiard hall, museum, gallery or library, or
- (xi) a conference centre, community hall or other place that hosts public events;
- (xii) a courthouse; or
- (xiii) a place of worship and attached premises operated by a faith community when used for secular purposes;
- (b) a taxi, limousine, perimeter seating vehicle, perimeter seating bus, vehicle used for a commercial ride sharing service or other vehicle for hire;
- (c) a public transportation vehicle;
- (d) the indoor or sheltered portion or a terminal, station or other location at which persons
 - (i) load onto or unload from a public transportation vehicle, or
 - (ii) wait to load onto a public transportation vehicle;
- (e) an airport, heliport or seaplane terminal.

“operator” in relation to an indoor public space means an owner or operator of the indoor public space;

"perimeter seating" has the same meaning as in the Passenger Transportation Regulation;

"perimeter seating bus" has the same meaning as in the Passenger Transportation Regulation;

"personal service" means a service provided by a person to or on the body of another person, and includes services provided at a barbershop, beauty parlour, health spa, massage parlour, nail salon, tattoo shop, sauna or steam bath;

“physical barrier” means a barrier which is designed, installed and maintained in accordance with WorkSafeBC guidance at

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/covid-19-health-safety-designing-effective-barriers?lang=en>;

“post-secondary space” means

- (a) a building or structure that is operated by a post-secondary institution and provided for the common use of all students and staff of the post-secondary institution, including lobbies, hallways, public bathrooms,
- (b) classrooms, laboratories, gyms and other indoor areas of a building or structure that is operated by a post-secondary institution where students receive educational instruction, services or programming, and,
- (c) vehicles supplied or contracted by the post-secondary institution for the transport of students, if more than one person is present in the vehicle

“post-secondary institution” includes an entity that provides any of the following programs:

- (a) an educational or training program provided under
 - (i) the *College and Institute Act*,
 - (ii) the *Royal Roads University Act*,
 - (iii) the *Thompson Rivers University Act*,
 - (iv) the *University Act*, or
 - (v) the *Private Training Act*;
- (b) a program provided in accordance with a consent given under the *Degree Authorization Act*;
- (c) a theological education or training program provided under an Act;

“post-secondary staff person” means an employee, faculty, or other person acting on behalf of a post-secondary institution including a volunteer engaged in post-secondary related activities, and any other person in a post-secondary space who is not a “student” or “visitor”;

“public transportation vehicle” includes a bus, train or ferry;

“retail business” means a business that sells retail goods, including a grocery store, department store, clothing store, liquor or cannabis store, or sporting goods store;

“service business” means a business that provides a service, including

- (a) dry cleaning or laundry services,
- (b) insurance services,
- (c) banking services,
- (d) funeral services,

- (e) personal services,
- (f) accounting, legal, engineering or other professional services, or
- (g) the services of a tradesperson;

“school staff person” means an employee, or other person acting on behalf of a school, including a volunteer engaged in school-related activities, and any other person in a school space who is not a “student” or “visitor”;

“school” means an entity that operates any of the following:

- (a) a school as defined in the *School Act*;
 - (b) a francophone school as defined in the *School Act*;
 - (c) a Provincial school as defined in the *School Act*;
 - (d) an independent school as defined in the *Independent School Act*;
- but does not include an entity that operates a First Nation school certified as an independent school under the *Independent School Act*;

“school space” means

- (a) a building or structure that is operated by a school and provided for the common use of all students and staff of the school, including lobbies, hallways, public bathrooms,
- (b) classrooms, laboratories, gyms and other indoor areas of a building or structure that is operated by a school where students receive educational instruction, services or programming, and;
- (c) vehicles supplied or contracted by the school, including private vehicles for the transport of students, if more than one person is present in the vehicle;

“sport facility” means a place used for sport activities, including a gym, ice arena, pool, gymnastics facility or indoor field;

“student” means a person who participates in an educational or training program provided by a school or a post-secondary institution;

“visitor” means a person who is present in an indoor public space, school or post-secondary institution, including a parent or caregiver to a student, but does not include the operator of the indoor public space, a worker, a student or staff person;

“worker” means an employee or person acting on behalf of an operator of the indoor public space who works in a workplace;

“working area” means an inside area of a workplace which is accessed by workers of the workplace and to which the public does not have unrestricted access;

“workplace” does not include a worker’s private residence

Face coverings required in indoor public spaces, school spaces and post-secondary spaces – visitors

- 2 (1) Except as provided under section 3 a visitor must wear a face covering, in accordance with subsection (2), while inside an indoor public space, a school space or a post-secondary space.
- (2) A face covering must be worn in a manner that covers the nose and mouth.
- (3) A visitor who is not wearing a face covering as required in subsection (2), must not be inside an indoor public space, school space or post-secondary space.

Exemption from use of face covering in indoor public spaces, school spaces and post - secondary spaces - visitors

- 3 (1) Section 2 (2) does not apply as follows:
- (a) to visitor who is less than 9 years of age;
 - (b) to a visitor who is unable to wear a face covering because of
 - (i) a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or
 - (ii) a physical, cognitive or mental impairment;
 - (c) to a visitor who is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person;
 - (d) if the face covering is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the visitor wearing it;
 - (e) while inside a courtroom;
 - (f) while the visitor is consuming food or drink at a location designated for those purposes by the operator of the indoor public space, school space, or post-secondary space and while seated;
 - (g) while the visitor is participating in exercise activity or sport at a fitness facility or sport facility;
 - (h) while the visitor inside a vehicle on a ferry;
 - (i) while communicating with a person for whom visual cues, facial expressions, lip-reading or lip movements are essential.
 - (j) except in a school space, the visitor is delivering a presentation or lecture, if
 - (i) there is a distance of two metres separating the visitor and a person attending the presentation or lecture, or
 - (ii) there is a physical barrier between the visitor and the persons attending the presentation or lecture.

Face coverings required in indoor public spaces – operators and workers

- 4** (1) Except as provided under sections 5 and 6, an operator or worker must wear a face covering while inside an indoor public space in accordance with subsection (2);
- (2) Whether provided in an indoor public space or a working area, an operator or worker must wear a face covering
- (a) when providing a personal service to a client
 - (b) serving a customer in a restaurant, pub, bar or other business that prepares and sells food or drink
 - (c) serving customers in a retail business.
- (3) A face covering must be worn in a manner that covers the nose and mouth.
- (4) An operator or worker who does not wear a face covering due to the application of an exemption in section 5 must not provide a face to face service to a visitor, unless there is a physical barrier between the operator or worker and the visitor.

Exemption from use of face covering in indoor public spaces – operators and workers

- 5** Section 4 (3) does not apply to an operator or worker as follows:
- (a) If the operator or worker is unable to wear a face covering because of
 - (i) a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or
 - (ii) a physical, cognitive or mental impairment;
 - (b) if the operator or worker is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person;
 - (c) if the face covering is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the operator or worker;
 - (d) while the operator or worker is consuming food or drink at a location designated for those purposes by the operator of the indoor public space and while seated;
 - (e) the operator or worker is participating in an exercise activity or sport at a fitness facility or sport facility;
 - (f) while inside a vehicle on a ferry;
 - (g) while inside a courtroom;
 - (h) while communicating with a person for whom visual cues, facial expressions, lip-reading or lip movements are essential,
 - (i) there is a physical barrier which blocks the transmission of droplets between
 - i. the worker and other workers, or
 - ii. the worker and a visitor.

Face coverings required in post-secondary spaces – students and post-secondary staff persons

- 6** (1) Except as provided under section 7, students and post-secondary staff persons must wear a face covering in accordance with subsection (2) while inside a post-secondary space
- (2) A face covering must be worn in a manner that covers the nose and mouth.
- (3) A student or a post-secondary staff person who is not wearing a face covering as provided in subsection (2) must not be inside a post-secondary institution space.

Exemptions from use of face coverings – post-secondary students

- 7** Section 6 (2) does not apply to a student as follows:
- (a) If the student is unable to wear a face covering because of
 - (i) a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or
 - (ii) a physical, cognitive or mental impairment;
 - (b) if the student is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person;
 - (c) if the face covering is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the student;
 - (d) while the student is consuming food or drink and while seated;
 - (e) while participating in physical activity organized by the post-secondary institution or at a fitness facility or sport facility;
 - (f) while communicating with a person for whom visual cues, facial expressions, lip-reading or lip movements are essential;
 - (g) if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, for example while actively playing a wind instrument;
 - (h) if the student is behind a barrier separating the student from other persons, for example a divider or cubicle;
 - (i) if the student is in a room by themselves;
 - (j) if the student is in a post-secondary space and no other students, post-secondary staff persons or members of the public are present.
 - (k) the student is delivering a presentation or lecture if
 - (i) there is a distance of two metres separating the student delivering the presentation or lecture and students and other persons attending the presentation or lecture, or
 - (ii) there is a physical barrier between the student delivering the lecture and the students and the persons attending the presentation or lecture.

Exemptions from use of face coverings – post-secondary staff persons

8 Section 6 (2) does not apply to a post-secondary staff person as follows:

- (a) If the post-secondary staff person is unable to wear a face covering because of
 - (i) a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or
 - (ii) a physical, cognitive or mental impairment;
- (b) if the post-secondary staff person is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person;
- (c) if the face covering is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the post-secondary staff person ;
- (d) while the post-secondary staff person is consuming food or drink at a location designated for those purposes by the post-secondary institution and while seated;
- (e) while participating in physical activity organized by the post-secondary institution or at a fitness facility or sport facility operated by the post-secondary institution;
- (f) while communicating with a person for whom visual cues, facial expressions, lip-reading or lip movements are essential;
- (g) if the post-secondary staff person is in a room by themselves;
- (h) if the post-secondary staff person is in an office or other indoor area of a building or structure operated by the post-secondary institution and if no students or members of the public are present,
- (i) if the post-secondary staff person is delivering a presentation or lecture or teaching if
 - i. there is a distance of two metres separating the post-secondary staff person and students or
 - ii. if there is a physical barrier between the post-secondary staff person and students.

Face coverings required in school spaces – school students and school staff persons

- 9** (1) Except as provided under section 10, students in Grades 4 to 12 and school staff persons must wear a face covering, in accordance with subsection (2) while inside a school space
- (2) A face covering must be worn in a manner that covers the nose and mouth.
- (3) A school staff person who is not wearing a face covering as provided in subsection (2) must not be inside a school space.

Exemptions from use of face coverings – school students

10 Section 9 (2) does not apply to a student as follows:

- (a) If the student is unable to wear a face covering because of
 - (i) a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or
 - (ii) a physical, cognitive or mental impairment;
- (b) if the student is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person;
- (c) if the face covering is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the student;
- (d) while the student is consuming food or drink and while seated;
- (e) while participating in a high intensity fitness activity organized by the school or at a fitness facility or sport facility operated by the school;
- (f) while communicating with a person for whom visual cues, facial expressions, lip-reading or lip movements are essential;
- (g) if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, for example while actively playing a wind instrument;
- (h) if the student is behind a barrier separating the student from other persons, for example a divider or cubicle;
- (i) if the student is in a room by themselves;
- (j) if the student is in a school space and no other students, school staff, visitors or other persons are present.

Exemptions from use of face coverings –school staff persons

11 Section 9 (2) does not apply to a school staff person as follows:

- (a) If the school staff person is unable to wear a face covering because of
 - (i) a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or
 - (ii) a physical, cognitive or mental impairment;
- (b) if the school staff person is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person;
- (c) if the face covering is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the school staff person ;
- (d) while the school staff person is consuming food or drink at a location designated for those purposes by the school and while seated;
- (e) while participating in physical activity organized by the school or at a fitness facility or sport facility operated by the school;
- (f) while communicating with a person for whom visual cues, facial expressions, lip-reading or lip movements are essential;
- (g) if the school staff person is in a room by themselves;
- (h) if the school staff person is in an office or other indoor area of a building or structure operated by the school and if no students or members of the public

are present,

Signage

- 12** Operators of indoor public spaces, schools, and post-secondary institutions must post a signage at the entrance to all indoor areas covered by this order notifying that face coverings are required to be worn in accordance with this order.

Order does not prevent further requirements

- 13** Nothing in this order prevents an operator, school or post-secondary institution from having additional requirements in relation to face coverings.

This Order expires at midnight on October 31st, 2021.

Pursuant to section 54 (1) (h) of the *Public Health Act*, and in accordance with the emergency powers set out in Part 5 of the *Public Health Act*, I will not be accepting requests for reconsideration of this Order.

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*.

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*.

You may contact me at:

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer
s.15; s.19

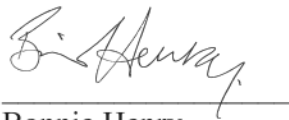
PO Box 9648 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9P4

Fax: (250) 952-1570

Email: ProvHlthOffice@gov.bc.ca

DATED THIS: 28th day of September 2021

SIGNED:



Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

DELIVERY BY: Posting to the BC Government the BC Centre for Disease Control websites.

Enclosure: Excerpts of the *Public Health*

ENCLOSURE

Excerpts of the *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.

General emergency powers

- 54** (1) A health officer may, in an emergency, do one or more of the following:
- (h) not reconsider an order under section 43 [*reconsideration of orders*], not review an order under section 44 [*review of orders*] or not reassess an order under section 45 [*mandatory reassessment of orders*];
- (2) An order that may be made under this Part may be made in respect of a class of persons or things, and may make different requirements for different persons or things or classes of persons or things or for different geographic areas.

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*];