

## FW: UPDATE - WorkSafeBC (WSBC) Re-Start Guidelines

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From: MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX  
Sent: May 14, 2020 2:16:00 PM PDT

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**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** May 14, 2020 11:12 AM

**To:** Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Leduc, Danine LBR:EX <Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** FYI: UPDATE - WorkSafeBC (WSBC) Re-Start Guidelines

WorkSafeBC advises that the re-start guidelines will go live and news release sent at 11:15 am tomorrow, followed by the dissemination to stakeholders (eg. sectoral agencies & industry associations).

- I've asked WSBC to forward the list of stakeholders they plan to send to – suggest you review and look for gaps that you may wish to field engagement with. Suggested the same with my colleagues across ministries.

An updated NR was received from WSBC, the draft is noted below.

Beginning tomorrow (NOT LIVE TODAY) we will have a centralized media contact for LBR that will include Chandler who, gratefully, is helping us triage media requests. As a FYI only:

- [LBRmedia@gov.bc.ca](mailto:LBRmedia@gov.bc.ca) / 236-478-3253

Thank you,  
Jules

Julianne (Jules) McCaffrey  
Director of Communications, LBR  
Government of British Columbia  
D: 778-698-8964  
C: 250-888-8074

**Preferred pronouns:** *(she/her/hers)*

*So grateful to live, learn, share space and share friendship with members from the Lkwungen territory. I am committed to the important work of meaningful reconciliation, and I attempt to tread lightly on this beautiful land that I get to call home.*

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DRAFT NR – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## WorkSafeBC releases industry-specific guidance for next phase of restart

Richmond, B.C. (May 15, 2020) — <sup>Copyright</sup>

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[https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation.](https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation)

## RE: ACTION REQUIRED Re: FOR APPROVAL: FB/TW post - WorkSafeBC guidelines - Friday

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From: MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX, Scott, Samantha LBR:EX  
Sent: May 14, 2020 6:38:20 PM PDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg

Nevermind. I red it too quickly. It does say "some businesses and organizations".  
All good.

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**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 14, 2020 6:36 PM  
**To:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION REQUIRED Re: FOR APPROVAL: FB/TW post - WorkSafeBC guidelines - Friday

Sure. s.13  
s.13

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**From:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 14, 2020 6:29 PM  
**To:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION REQUIRED Re: FOR APPROVAL: FB/TW post - WorkSafeBC guidelines - Friday

What about for sectors where the guidelines aren't available yet?

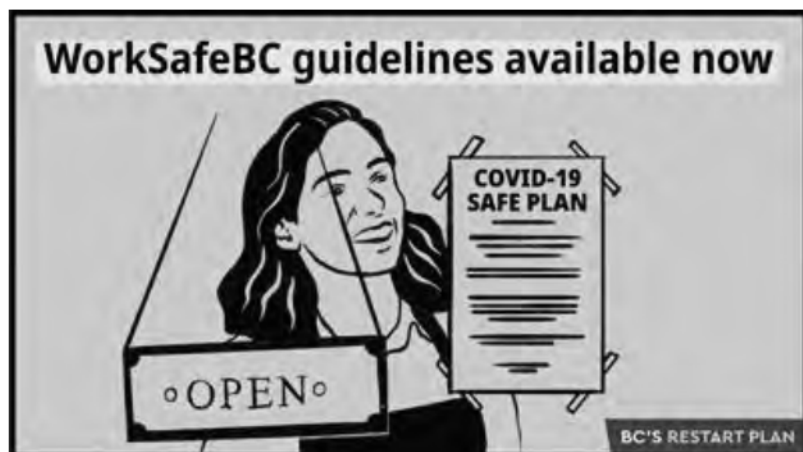
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**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 14, 2020 5:53 PM  
**To:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION REQUIRED Re: FOR APPROVAL: FB/TW post - WorkSafeBC guidelines - Friday  
**Importance:** High

Any issues? Seen by Jimmy/JIC/TIM/HQ and more.

### Social media copy

New WorkSafeBC guidelines are now available for some businesses and organizations listed in Phase 2. Working with employees and unions, businesses must use these guidelines to create a public COVID-19 Safe Plan outlining how they will adjust operations to keep employees and the public safe. Find out more: [www.link.com](http://www.link.com).



Warmly,

**Sara Thaw**

Manager, Strategic Content

Strategic Communications | Government Communications & Public Engagement

Government of British Columbia

[sara.thaw@gov.bc.ca](mailto:sara.thaw@gov.bc.ca) | +1 250 883 0374



## FW: TOMORROW: Re-Open

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From: MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX, Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX  
Sent: May 14, 2020 11:18:21 PM PDT  
Attachments: WorkSafeBC COVID-19 Protocols and Resources.pdf

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**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 14, 2020 9:55 PM  
**To:** Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: TOMORROW: Re-Open

And good news!!!

Guidelines attached!!!

Also for your awareness, here was the scope of Q's they were answering when I laid eyes on WSBC's FAQ nearly 6 hours ago:

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I noted some more lines of query to consider, for instance, on compliance and enforcement:

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On supports

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On resources

s.13

Re: guidelines

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**From:** Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <[Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 14, 2020 9:51 PM  
**To:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <[Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <[Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: TOMORROW: Re-Open

Okay, thanks for the update Jules. And Thanks for all your hard work on this.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 14, 2020, at 9:40 PM, McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <[Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

#### **WSBC NEWS RELEASE**

- WorkSafeBC's NR was sent to translations @2:30 pm for: Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, French, Spanish, Tagalog and Farsi.
  - In follow-up to Don Zdravec and others, I noted your suggestion and Korean as missing from the list, Alex, and it'll be included now.
  - It had a significant amendment as of 5 minutes ago which requires us to re-translate. The change is noted in the attached.

#### **LBR NEWS RELEASE**

- A draft NR has been written by Jimmy that's to follow the WSBC one tomorrow at 11:15 a.m. s.13

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#### **GUIDELINES**

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## FW: FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

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From: MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Bains, Harry LBR:EX, Bains, Harry  
Sent: May 15, 2020 12:53:02 PM PDT  
Attachments: NR - Govt welcomes WorkSafe Guidelines - Draft v.2dl.docx

Sorry it was updated again. Nothing changed in your quotation other than one word added by Danine.  
-Alex

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**From:** Leduc, Danine LBR:EX <Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 15, 2020 12:41 PM  
**To:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

Looks great – minor add to Minister’s statement in tracked..  
Thanks  
Danine

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**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 15, 2020 11:36 AM  
**To:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>; Leduc, Danine LBR:EX <Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

Hi all,

Attached is a NR that is still draft and needs a bit of re-jigging of the bulleted list given the late-night changes to the WorkSafeBC one.

@Alex/Sam: Given constraints and a desire to remain timely in response, do you mind having a cursory look to ensure you’re good with its direction?

@Trevor/Danine/Mel: the NR is an unexpected late add to the comm’s strategy and will go out as soon as approved, there’s no specific time slot w/ corp/cal, but they’re aware.

## FW: FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

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From: MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX  
Sent: May 15, 2020 12:57:17 PM PDT

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**From:** Bains, Harry s.17  
**Sent:** May 15, 2020 12:57 PM  
**To:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

Alex, looks good

Sent from my iPad

On May 15, 2020, at 12:53 PM, MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Sorry it was updated again. Nothing changed in your quotation other than one word added by Danine.  
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**From:** Leduc, Danine LBR:EX <Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 15, 2020 12:41 PM  
**To:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

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**Sent:** May 15, 2020 11:36 AM  
**To:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>; Leduc, Danine LBR:EX <Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

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<NR - Govt welcomes WorkSafe Guidelines - Draft v.2dl.docx>

## FW: FOR REVIEW - Media Avail materials for Thursday

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From: MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Bains, Harry LBR:EX, Sangha, Jasmeet LBR:EX  
Cc: Scott, Samantha LBR:EX  
Sent: May 19, 2020 2:33:09 PM PDT  
Attachments: MLA KM-QA\_temporary pandemic pay\_\_FNL.docx, KMQA - COVID 19\_Labour\_MediaAvail\_May19.docx, NR - WorkSafeBC releases industry-specific guidance for next phase of restart - May-15-2020.docx, SN - COVID 19 Media Avail Speech - May2020.docx, Frequently Asked Questions.docx, KM-QA Restart BC Plan Apr 6 2020\_FINAL.docx, IN CFIB Small Business Confidence and COVID Survey\_12MAY20\_FINAL.docx

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**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 19, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX <Colin.Hynes@gov.bc.ca>; Tomana, Sukhi GCPE:EX <Sukhi.Tomana@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - Media Avail materials for Thursday  
**Importance:** High

Hi Alex and Sam,

Colin and Sukhi (our wonderful temporary add from MOTI to help get us through session prep and the re-start business) quickly assembled this package of materials to support the Media Avail and Town Hall on Thursday.

A separate email will come with Town Hall Specific supports.

Attached are all the supporting docs - including the SN which are still draft but demo the direction.

IN – JEDC – Small Business Confidence  
FAQ – WorkSafeBC – Re-start Guidelines  
MLA KM – FIN – Pandemic Pay  
KM/QA – JIC – BC Re-Start Plan  
KM/QA – LBR – Labour specific focus

Anything with yellow highlight denotes \*new\* bullets gleaned from media QAs, etc.

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# **Businesses cautiously open their doors**

*By Gordon McIntyre & Susan Lazaruk*

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Page 017 of 141 to/à Page 023 of 141

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<p><b>QUESTION AND ANSWER</b></p> <p><b>Ministry of Labour</b>  <b>Date: April 17, 2020</b>  <b>Updated: May 19, 2020</b>  <b>Minister Responsible: Harry Bains</b></p>	<p><b>COVID-19</b>  <b>KM/QA</b></p>
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## Key messages

- British Columbians stepped up and are doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Together, we've made a lot of progress.
- BC's Restart Plan lays out the next steps - a careful restart while protecting people and all the progress we've made.
- This is a careful, phased plan to help reopen the economy in British Columbia.
- This will not be a flipping of a switch – more like turning up a dial.
- As more businesses restart, the Province will work with them to make sure employees and customers can feel safe and confident.
- Every industry or sector is being asked to develop sector standards with health and safety measures appropriate to their areas.
- Industry-specific guidance and resources have been released by WorkSafeBC to support employers resuming operations as part of phase 2 of the provincial government's restart plan.
- Every employer must ensure the health and safety of their workers, including developing a plan on how to assess the risk of COVID-19 exposure in the workplace and implement measures to keep their workers safe.
- WorkSafeBC will work with industry associations to ensure the direction and guidance they provide to their members meets the requirements set out by the Provincial Health Officer.

## **Employees:**

### **1. How is BC supporting workers and dealing with gaps in law?**

- The Province has made changes to the Employment Standards Act to better support workers both during the COVID-19 public health emergency and in the long term.
- Firstly, changes allow workers to immediately take unpaid, job-protected leave if they are unable to work for specified reasons relating to COVID-19.
- This means workers who are ill, need to self isolate, need to care for their child or certain other dependants, cannot return to BC because of travel restrictions or whose employer is concerned that the employee may expose others to risk, are able to take leave without putting their job at risk.
- These proactive changes ensure that no one will lose their jobs for prioritizing their health and safety, or the health and safety of their loved ones and their community.
- The leave is retroactive to Jan. 27, 2020, the date that the first presumptive COVID-19 case was confirmed in B.C.
- While on job-protected leave related to the COVID-19 crisis, workers may also be eligible for financial support through expanded Employment Insurance benefits through the federal government.
- Secondly, to better support workers on an ongoing basis, the changes also provide up to three days of unpaid, job-protected leave each year for people who cannot work due to personal illness or injury.
- This is a permanent change to the act that brings B.C. in line with all other provinces in Canada by recognizing unpaid sick leave under employment standards legislation.
- This pandemic has highlighted the importance of having permanent job-protected personal illness or injury leave in place for people in this province.
- We're stepping up and bringing in this new leave to support workers over the long term, beyond this crisis.

### **2. Are there any legal protections for workers who may suffer mental health effects from this crisis?**

- We recognize the stress and anxiety this is causing people — being away from family, friends and our communities is not easy.
- People who feel they can't work because of a mental health issue can take up to three days of unpaid, job-protected leave under the new illness and injury leave we announced in March.
- As with other job leaves, workers wanting to take this leave may need to give some evidence of eligibility if their employer requests it.
- Workers can continue to report a workplace injury — including those related to mental health disorders — during this time and can do so online or by phone.

WorkSafeBC is continuing to register, adjudicate, and make payments on new time-lost claims.

- Workers can call WorkSafeBC's Claims Call Centre at 1 888 967-5377 for assistance.

**3. WorkSafeBC is receiving 100's of claims from people regarding COVID-19. What does this mean?**

- Having safe and healthy workplaces is incredibly important – not only during this pandemic, but always.
- We are seeing that in certain industries and sectors, some workers may be at a higher risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus based on the nature of the worker's employment.
  - Like workers in health care or the food processing industry.
- This has led to some WorkSafeBC compensation claims related to COVID-19.
- We want to make sure employers reduce the risk of workers contracting the virus through work-related exposure.

**4. Will we add a new presumption for health care and retail store employees who get sick from COVID-19?**

- We want to make sure employers reduce risk of workers contracting the virus through work-related exposure.
- Having safe and healthy workplaces is incredibly important, not only during this pandemic, but always.
- WorkSafeBC is also looking into adding COVID-19 to their list of presumptions.

**5. Why isn't the sick leave you introduced a few weeks ago paid? Isn't it clearly needed?**

- People want to know they'll have a job to return to if they take time off to recover from illness — and this job-protected leave gives that assurance.
- The leave is in line with what's offered in most other provinces — it matches, in the number of days and the unpaid, job-protected leaves provided in Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and PEI.
- It's important that we balance the needs of employers, as well as supporting workers.
- That said, we are looking at other ways we can support people who get sick at work too.

**6. my child is immune compromised and I follow the BC CDC suggestion to keep them away from gatherings, and this includes school, am I protected by recent amendments to the Employment Standards Act? Can I lose my job for keeping my child home?**

- The recent Employment Standards Act amendments included unpaid job protected leave which apply to those who are providing care to their minor child.
- There is no time limit on how long people can take this leave for; and,
- As long as they are unable to work for the reasons laid in the ESA, and related to COVID-19, they are eligible for job-protected leave.
- It is my hope that employers make reasonable accommodations, such as continuing to work from home, for people in situations where they are able to work, but cannot go into the office due to their families health and safety.

**Employers:**

**7. Tell me about the COVID-19 Safety Plan guide?**

- A COVID-19 Safety Plan template is available on the [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com) website. It will guide employers through a six-step process to help them create the plan. The plan is provided as a fillable PDF file that can be downloaded.

**8. Will WorkSafeBC be reviewing and approving the COVID-19 safety plans of all businesses before they reopen?**

- WorkSafeBC will not be reviewing or approving the COVID-19 safety plans of individual employers, but employers will need to provide their plan during a WorkSafeBC inspection.

**9. How will you ensure that a business has a plan in place?**

- WorkSafeBC will be launching a verification and inspection initiative the week of May 19.
- The purpose of the province-wide inspection initiative is to ensure workplaces have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place and that it's being implemented effectively to keep workers safe.

**10. What about Section XX in the guidelines, it doesn't relate to my business. How am I supposed to adhere to it?**

- These documents from WorkSafeBC are guidelines to help businesses understand best practices. Every business is different and will need to make adjustment that suit their needs.
- If a business needs more help for their Individual circumstance, they should contact WorkSafeBC.

**11. What safety protocols are in place for BC industry? Construction, retail, workcamps?**

- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations continue to apply and be enforced by WorkSafeBC.
- Work is underway to get information to workers, employers and industry about how to make sure workplaces are safe and healthy.
- The Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has provided guidance to many industries such as mining and construction, on best practices during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- WorkSafeBC has also issued industry specific guidance on its website to help businesses understand best practices and obligations.

**12. What are employers' obligation for providing a sanitary workplace on construction sites?**

- No worker should be in an unsafe environment that could be hazardous to their health while on the job.
- Employers have a responsibility and an obligation to provide workers with safe working conditions, as laid out in WorkSafeBC's Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines and by the Public Health Officer.
- Regulation (4.85) requires that all workplaces require either fixed or portable washroom facilities – including provision for hand washing. These are required to be maintained, kept clean/sanitary with adequate supplies.
- Similar provisions apply to where workers consume food (4.84). Employers must provide these facilities and where there are concerns, workers first raise these with their respective safety reps/supervisors.
- WorkSafeBC also has industry specific guidance on its website to help businesses understand best practices and obligations.

**13. How does a worker refuse unsafe work? Do they have any rights?**

- Given these extraordinary times, workers' safety is paramount, and workers in B.C. have the right to refuse work if they believe it presents an undue hazard.
- In these circumstances, the worker should follow steps within their workplace to resolve the issue. The worker would begin by reporting the undue hazard to their employer for investigation and the employer would then need to consider the refusal on a case-by-case basis, depending on the situation. For more information, see Occupational Health and Safety Guideline G3.12.
- Workers can also call WorkSafeBC's Prevention Information Line at: 1 888 621-7233.

•

**14. How are you compelling employers to comply with Dr. Henry's expectations in a COVID-19 environment?**

- For all business types generally, WorkSafeBC has prevention officers, these officers are still working, they are still doing inspections.
- Businesses are expected to comply with Dr. Henry's official direction, as well as B.C.'s occupational health and safety laws.
- WorkSafeBC has been reaching out to construction sites and has also been responding to worker concerns. In addition, WorkSafeBC is inspecting construction sites related to COVID-19. This would include ensuring construction sites are following direction from the provincial health officer and are complying with occupational health and safety requirements.
- In addition, municipal police and RCMP are able to enforce Dr Henry's official direction as well.

**15. Will WorkSafeBC premiums be reduced to give businesses a financial break?**

- WorkSafeBC is allowing businesses to defer paying their premiums for three months without penalty, which will benefit about 84,000 employers.

**16. Is three extra weeks of layoff you changed in the ESA really long enough to help businesses?**

- We are hopeful that many businesses will be able to bring staff back to work before 16 weeks; and I know many have already begun working on re-opening plans.
- Extending this period to 16 weeks aligns B.C.'s temporary layoff provisions with the federal CERB benefit period — allowing workers to take full advantage of those benefits while keeping them connected to their jobs.
- The timing is also similar to Alberta's extended temporary layoff period (17 weeks).
- The Federal government has also extended their wage subsidy for an extra three months till the end of August. This is to encourage employers to bring their employees back to work.

**17. We have no idea when this will end. Why not extend layoffs indefinitely?**

- Extending this period indefinitely would leave many employees in limbo — not knowing when or if they may return to work and possibly affecting their eligibility for federal supports or severance.
- If needed, employers and workers may jointly write to the Employment Standards Branch to request to extend their temporary layoff period if longer than 16 weeks is required.
- We also hope many businesses will be able to resume more-normalized operations through parts of the summer, when this happens it will allow many businesses recall employees to go back to work.



**18. We've been hearing about people asking to be laid off so they can collect CERB when they could be working. Won't this change help them abuse the supports for longer?**

- The federal supports are there to help people who are not able to work and are going through financial hardship due to the pandemic.
- I like to think that most British Columbians are fair and honest and they won't take inappropriate advantage of these supports.

**General:**

**19. What advice to you have to those working from home, or their employers?**

- The Prime Minister has asked all people in Canada to work from home, if they are able, as some sectors/jobs may be deemed essential.
- To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, WorkSafeBC has advised employers to consider whether workers can work remotely (i.e., work at home).
- In terms of occupational health and safety, employers have responsibilities for workers working from home that mirror those in the workplace.
- Employers should ensure that a comprehensive written policy on working from home is developed and implemented, and that each workplace party understands their role, duties and responsibilities.

**Secondary messaging:**

- WorkSafeBC has been working with employers in making sure they are aware of their health and safety obligations.
- When someone is working from home safety measures must still be taken, especially as some workers may be alone.
- People should eliminate tripping hazards around the home.
- Electrical safety, such as making sure to use grounded plugs, should be considered.
- If a worker is alone, phone/email check-ins should be done.
- Each home, each job is different and should be assessed between the employer and worker.

**20. What advice do you have to the essential frontline workers who are potentially exposing themselves?**

- Our essential and frontline workers are incredibly important to keeping B.C.'s economy moving, allowing people to get groceries and taking care of those who are sick.
- I'd like to extend a tremendous and well deserved thank you to them all.
- Recently, our government announced that health and social service workers delivering in-person, front-line care to some of B.C.'s most vulnerable people will receive a financial boost through temporary COVID-19 pandemic pay.
- Temporary pandemic pay recognizes the frontline workers providing critical public services in health, social services and corrections to those most vulnerable during the pandemic.
- We know that this current situation is difficult for many people and it's encouraging that many private sector employers, such as grocery stores and some banks, are stepping up to provide pay increases for their frontline workers too.
- These workers should be taking the precautions the Provincial Health Officer is suggesting whenever they are out of the house or at work: frequent hand-washing, minimize personal contact with others, and practice physical distancing (and if physical distancing is not an option, wearing a mask).
- Your employer has an obligation to make the workplace safe too:
  - if you are a cashier or work in a retail space with a pay area, ask your employer to put in best-practices seen in many businesses since this pandemic started: plexiglass divider/shields, ways to clean payment machines/registers and keyboards, as well as reducing the amount of customers allowed in the business.

**21. I'm confused about where to go for information about my business/employment/health, there are so many places to look?**

- Visit [www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19](http://www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19) for information and supports that are non-health related or call 1-888-COVID19, anytime between 7:30am-8:00pm, 7 days a week.
- For health-related information visit the BC CDC (centre for disease control) website.
- It's also a good idea to take the COVID-19 self assessment test if you're feeling respiratory symptoms. You can find the test on the BC CDC website.
- This self assessment tool will help you gauge what you need to do next. Whether that is calling 811, going to a hospital or self-isolating at home.

## **BC's Restart Plan**

### **Key messages**

- British Columbians stepped up and are doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Together, we've made a lot of progress.
- BC's Restart Plan lays out the next steps - a careful restart while protecting people and all the progress we've made.
- This is a careful, phased plan to help reopen the economy in British Columbia.
- This will not be a flipping of a switch – more like turning up a dial.
- In mid-May, life will start to look different for British Columbians.
- The Province is starting by bringing back non-urgent and elective surgeries and many other health services like physiotherapy, dentists and chiropractors.
- As more businesses restart, the Province will work with them to make sure employees and customers can feel safe and confident.
- And small social gatherings will be possible.
- This is not a return to normal – but it's a hopeful, careful step toward a real recovery for all of us.
- COVID-19 won't be behind us until there's a vaccine, which could be 12 – 18 months – we must continue to work together to keep our communities safe from COVID-19 and build BC back better than ever.

### ***What does the “new normal” mean for me?***

- B.C.'s progress in the fight against COVID-19 is a direct result of the sacrifices and decisions we have all made.

- To continue to protect seniors and at-risk people, and ensure our health care system can respond to this dangerous virus, we all have to keep doing our part – at home, in the community and at work.
- That means staying at home and keeping a safe distance from family when you have cold or flu symptoms, including coughing, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat and fatigue.
- In addition, you should continue to:
  - Avoid handshaking or hugs with people outside of your household.
  - Practice good hygiene, e.g., regular hand washing, avoiding touching your face, covering coughs and sneezes, disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
  - Keep physical distancing, as much as possible, when in the community; and where not possible, consider using a non-medical mask or face covering.
- And in personal settings, when you're seeing friends and family who you don't live with, you should:
  - Only get together in small groups of 2–6 people and keep a physical distance.
  - Stay home and away from others if you have cold or flu symptoms.

***What do I need to do to reopen my business/organization under the “new normal”?***

- Right now, companies should start reviewing existing recommendations and guidelines from the Provincial Health Officer and begin planning for how to operate in a safe way.

- Every industry or sector is being asked to develop sector standards with health and safety measures appropriate to their areas. Government will work with sector associations to support them in this process.
- Those sector standards will be reviewed by WorkSafeBC with input from public health officials. Guidelines will be provided for how businesses can enact these safety measures.
- WorkSafeBC will work with industry associations to ensure the direction and guidance they provide to their members meets the requirements set out by the Provincial Health Officer.
- For sectors that have been ordered to close, such as personal care services – which includes hair, nail, other aesthetics and tattoo parlours – this will also require consideration by the Provincial Health Officer and lifting or modifying of those orders before they can re-open.
- Finally, each company will need to adapt those guidelines to their own operations and make their own COVID Safe Plan.
- Individual businesses will not need to submit their own plans for approval but they must make them available to their workers and their customers by posting on the premises.
- WorkSafeBC will have the jurisdiction to ensure a business' COVID Safe Plan is in place, that it meets sectoral standards and that it is being followed. This will include inspectors visiting worksites across the province.

## **Restart BC Plan Q&A**

### **Businesses**

**1. For businesses that have chosen to shut down (not those who've been ordered to close), will they be able to restart their operations before May 19?**

- Yes, businesses that have not been ordered closed are able to operate right now and should be following guidelines and recommendations available from WorkSafeBC.
- Those include: Agriculture, Construction, Forestry, Health care, Hospitality, Manufacturing, Municipalities, Grocery Retail, Small business, and Transportation.
- As additional sector safety standards are developed, businesses will be expected to harmonize their operations with any new measures.

**2. Do businesses currently operating in a sector without an approved safety plan have to close?**

- No, the province has not ordered most businesses to close, but all businesses must ensure they are following the directives of the PHO and encouraging physical distancing.
- Businesses can continue to operate with their existing adjustments, but once a safety plan is approved for their sector they will be expected to implement any additional measures identified.

**3. How will the WorkSafeBC plans be enforced? What happens to a business that doesn't follow these guidelines?**

- The development of these guidelines will be led by the private sector as businesses want to be able to operate safely for their staff and their customers.

- Once sector specific safety plans are finalized, businesses in the sector will be expected to bring their operations into line with those plans.
- WorkSafeBC will have the jurisdiction to enforce them including inspectors visiting worksites across the province to ensure that they have what they need to follow the guidelines and to ensure compliance.

#### **4. When can each sector expect to receive their specific sector plans or guidelines?**

- The work within the various sectors to develop these guidelines has already begun.
- For example, many within the restaurant sector have been hard at work developing safe guidelines and so we hope to have those finalized in the short term.
- Many sectors were never ordered closed and WorkSafeBC has online guidelines and recommendations for several sectors (Including: Agriculture, Construction, Forestry, Health care, Hospitality, Manufacturing, Municipalities, Grocery retail, and Transportation).
- Many people, both from government and from the private sector, are working as hard as they can to get B.C. in a good position for our economic recovery.

#### **5. How are different organization sectors moving forward? Is this to be done all at once?**

- Right now, companies should start reviewing existing recommendations and guidelines from the Provincial Health Officer and begin planning for how to operate in a safe way.
- Every industry or sector is being asked to develop sector standards with health and safety measures appropriate to their areas.

Government will work with sector associations to support them in this process.

- Those sector standards will be reviewed by WorkSafeBC with input from public health officials.
- Guidelines will be provided for how businesses can enact these safety measures.
- WorkSafeBC will work with industry associations to ensure the direction and guidance they provide to their members meets the requirements set out by the Provincial Health Officer.
- For sectors that have been ordered to close, such as personal care services – which includes hair, nail, other aesthetics and tattoo parlours – this will also require consideration by the Provincial Health Officer and lifting or modifying of those orders before they can re-open.
- Finally, each company will need to adapt those guidelines to their own operations and make their own COVID Safe Plan.
- Individual businesses will not need to submit their own plans for approval but they must make them available to their workers and their customers by posting on the premises.
- WorkSafeBC will have the jurisdiction to ensure a business' COVID Safe Plan is in place, that it meets sectoral standards and that it is being followed.
- This will include inspectors visiting worksites across the province.

## **6. Can I go back to my gym?**

- Gyms would fall into recreation/sports which will be in Phase 2.
- Some B.C. health authorities have issued their own orders around fitness centre closures, which will continue to be in place until those orders are rescinded.



- Over the next few weeks many sectors, including gyms and fitness centres, are encouraged to make plans and establish protocols on how they can operate safely in line with Public Health and Safety Guidelines.
- WorkSafeBC will work with industry associations to ensure the direction and guidance they provide to their members meets the requirements set out by the Provincial Health Officer.
- Individual businesses will need to ensure their own plans align with these sectoral plans.

## **7. When will restaurants be allowed to have dine-in service? What about patio service?**

- Restaurants are currently allowed to operate on a take-out/delivery only basis.
- The specific guidelines for expanding service at restaurants will be worked out between the restaurant sector and WorkSafeBC and public health officials to ensure the safety of customers and their staff.
- That work is currently underway and we will hope to be able to share those guidelines in the near future.
- These guidelines will cover things like: maximum number of people in their establishment, the ways in which servers will interact with customers, and the arrangement of tables.

## **8. What about bars that have been ordered to close?**

- The different types of bars vary greatly across the province (food primary, drinking primary, those with dancefloors, those with patios, breweries, etc).
- Some bars are more conducive than others to the kind of guidelines that will be used by the restaurant sector.

- For example, a bar with a large patio may be able to achieve the public health requirements easier than a bar that serves primarily as a music venue.
- Those are details that will need to be worked out in proposals from the sector for safe operation.

## **9. What about nightclubs?**

- It is obviously very difficult to maintain physical distancing requirements at nightclubs.
- That is why this is one of the few sectors that were ordered closed.
- We do encourage that industry to work within the sector to provide creative solutions or look to other jurisdictions that are beginning that work right now.

## **10. When will barber shops / hair salons / nail salons be allowed to re-open?**

- While these activities are under Phase 2 of our Restart Plan, they are inherently more difficult to perform with physical distancing requirements in place.
- Dr Henry has talked about potential precautions such as routine screening of customers and staff, requiring appointments to avoid crowding, and use of non-medical masks.
- Every industry or sector is being asked to develop sector standards with health and safety measures appropriate to their areas.
- Government will work with sector associations to support them in this process.
- Those sector standards will be reviewed through WorkSafeBC with input from public health officials.
- Guidelines will be provided for how businesses can enact these safety measures.

- WorkSafeBC will work with industry associations to ensure the direction and guidance they provide to their members meets the requirements set out by the Provincial Health Officer.

#### **11. What about retail stores?**

- Retail stores are currently allowed to operate in B.C.
- Those that have chosen to remain open have already begun to develop some modified practices that could inform the rest of the sector's guidelines.
- This includes: maintaining physical distancing, caps on the number of people inside at one time, single direction controls, and physical barriers.
- The Province is working with this sector to build on existing guidelines for the grocery sector to give customers and business owners confidence in safe operations.

#### **12. Can local governments reopen community centres and other municipal services?**

- Local governments play a unique role in our communities as they need to walk a dual line of governance and corporate entity.
- The Province will be working closely with Local Governments and the Provincial Health Officer on the transition planning.
- Plans will be driven by an overarching provincial framework for local governments to ensure that local governments are acting in concert across regions and that sectoral plans for things like libraries and recreations centres are also adhered to.

**13. When will my local library reopen? Is there a timeline for this?**

- Government will be working with local governments to coordinate the roll out of sector plans that will impact front-line services (i.e. rec centres or libraries).
- Each organization, like a library or community centre, will be responsible for plans that are appropriate to their specific activities.
- Plans for individual organizations should be based on broader sector plans that will be reviewed by a cross-ministry committee that includes checking for alignment with the Public Health and Safety Guidelines and WorkSafeBC requirements.
- WorkSafeBC will work with industry associations to ensure the direction and guidance they provide to their members meets the requirements set out by the Provincial Health Officer.

**14. What about sectors that depend on tourism?**

- Some sectors will experience longer term impacts such as the tourism sector.
- These sectors will require a robust recovery as well as an end to travel restrictions to support their return to normal.
- This will be a major concern for the Task Force on Economic Recovery as well as our government's plan for BC's economic recovery.

**Travel**

**15. Are you still maintaining the direction that people avoid non-essential travel within the Province?**

- Yes, that guidance has not changed at this time. We're still telling people to avoid all non-essential travel.

- We need to continue taking precautions as we ease off the restrictions gradually.
- We're going to start with letting people have more social contact with people in their community, before we make any changes to non-essential travel between communities.

**16. Are people still advised to avoid all non-essential travel at this time, especially to rural and remote areas?**

- The best course of action for British Columbians now is to stay close to home until further into summer, as we enter Phase 3 of B.C.'s Restart Plan.
- Boaters should be aware that some small coastal First Nations communities have closed their villages to visitors to protect themselves from COVID-19. Boaters planning a trip may not have access to fuel, supplies and other services, and should plan accordingly.
- In addition, the Canadian Coast Guard is asking recreational mariners to avoid non-essential trips on the water and stay close to home. Each call Search and Rescue specialists respond to puts them at risk of exposure to COVID-19 as well as requiring them to use precious supplies of PPE.
- Almost all provincial parks will be open for day use on May 14, including boat launches. Most provincial campgrounds will be open June 1.
- Parks that remain temporarily closed will be listed on the BC Parks website [www.bcparks.ca](http://www.bcparks.ca) and boaters will not be permitted to access bodies of water or boat launches in parks that remain closed.
- For more information, visit: <http://bcparks.ca/covid-19/questions-answers>
- If boaters must travel on their vessel, they are asked to stay safe, wear a personal floatation device, leave a trip plan with someone on

shore, and have all mandatory safety equipment working and on board the vessel.

- Boaters are also reminded that the Provincial Health Officer's guidance on physical distancing counts on boats too.

**17. What's the harm in visiting my vacation property on the Gulf Islands / Sunshine Coast / Okanagan etc.?**

- Now still isn't the time to visit your vacation home. We're still telling people to avoid all non-essential travel, especially to rural and remote areas.
- This is about extending understanding and compassion to people in rural, remote and Indigenous communities who are concerned about what a COVID outbreak would mean in their communities.
- These areas may not have health care resources to support you if you get sick and to respond to an outbreak.
- We're all in this together, and we have to continue to work together to protect smaller communities.

**18. Ontario Premier Doug Ford said he's open to having people visit their cottages for the long weekend if their numbers continue to fall. Why is there opposition to this in BC?**

- We understand people's desire to go to a cabin but prefer people take extra caution so we can all get through this together.
- We also understand residents of these communities not wanting people to come visit.
- We've succeeded in B.C. at flattening the curve - we want to keep it that way and protect smaller or remote communities.

**19. What is the guidance for smaller tourist resort communities that health authorities have, to date, recommended that people should not visit? Will provincial health authorities advice to avoid non-essential travel to ferry dependent tourist communities change, particularly in light of upcoming May long weekend?**

- Now isn't the time to visit your vacation home. We're still telling people to avoid all non-essential travel, especially to rural and remote areas.
- The best course of action for British Columbians now is to stay close to come until further into summer, as we enter Phase 3 of B.C.'s Restart Plan.
- This is about extending understanding and compassion to people in rural, remote and Indigenous communities who are concerned about what a COVID-19 outbreak would mean in their communities.
- These areas often have more limited health care resources to respond to an outbreak or to support you if you get sick.
- We're all in this together, and we have to continue to work together to protect smaller communities.
- Bed and breakfasts and small tourist operators would fall into the same category as hotels and resorts.

**20. Can I travel to see family or friends in another city?**

- Right now we are still telling people to avoid all non-essential travel in B.C.
- We understand that is extremely hard on people who are really missing family and friends right now.
- We're going to start with letting people have more social contact with people in their community, before we make any changes to non-essential travel between communities.

## **First Nation Communities**

### **21. What do you say to First Nations who are worried about increased non-essential travel to their communities as restrictions are lifted?**

- We understand that Indigenous communities have been tragically hit hard by pandemics in the past.
- And we know they are concerned about the impact this virus could cause for their communities and their elders. It's okay to be concerned.
- Just because we're starting to lift some restrictions, this isn't the time to take a road trip to another community.
- We're still telling people to avoid all non-essential travel.

### **22. What about First Nations who have implemented travel restrictions within their territory?**

- First Nations will continue to have the authority to restrict travel into their communities, but access for others traveling through on provincial highways must be maintained.
- Our government understands and shares the concerns of those in remote or First Nations communities about the potential spread of this virus.
- That's why we strongly encourage everyone to continue to follow Dr. Henry's orders and not to engage in any non-essential travel.

## **Schools & Child Care**

### **23. When will expanded in-class instruction begin? How many students will return?**

- This will not be a return to normal.



- With weeks left in the school year, we anticipate that many kids will not return to the classroom until September.
- But we are also exploring ways to safely get some kids back to school before the summer, to allow more parents to return to work.
- How these changes unfold are the focus of discussion among Ministry of Education officials, school trustees, the unions who represent teachers and support staff, and other education sector partners.
- Minister Fleming will have more to say on a phased-in approach to resuming in-class instruction in the coming weeks.

**24. How will you ensure that schools are safe with more kids and staff in them?**

- We understand parents have questions about whether it's safe for kids to go back to school. It's okay to feel concerned.
- Many schools have continued to operate safely.
- There are currently 4,700 children of essential service workers and about 300 vulnerable students with disabilities being supported in our schools.
- We know the virus has a very low infection rate in children and that children do not appear to transfer the virus to others.
- That's why Minister Fleming is working with our education partners and public health officials to plan a careful and phased return to the class for more students.

**25. How can you expect parents to return to work without schools and child care centres operating at full capacity?**

- We understand how difficult this pandemic has been, and continues to be, on families.

- For many parents and guardians, this has meant trying to juggle work obligations while taking care of kids at home.
- That's why, in Phase Two, we will work to expand access to child care, as well as in-classroom learning for K-12 students with the goal of fully resuming classes in the fall.
- We know an important step toward our recovery is getting kids back into the classroom so parents can get back into the workplace.

**26. Will students who don't attend in class instruction be at a disadvantage?**

- While there's no substitution for in-class instruction, teachers and staff in our schools have done an incredible job of helping kids learn in virtual ways.
- Those efforts to support distance learning will continue as we expand access to in-class instruction.
- Our goal is a full resumption of classes in September so that no child is left behind.

**27. What will happen to international students in BC's K-12 system?**

- Much will depend on when international travel restrictions are eased.
- It is our goal to fully resume K-12 classes in the fall and it is our hope that international students will be part of that.
- Students who come from around the world do a great deal to enrich our school communities.
- Appropriate measures, like a 14 day self-isolation on arrival would have to be implemented.

**28. Why are child care centres operating at full capacity while classrooms will only be at partial capacity? Isn't that a double standard?**

- We have been working closely with the Public Health Office and our child care and education partners to make sure kids are safe and healthy.
- Dr. Henry has been clear - child care centres can operate safely by following the Public Health Office guidelines for this sector.
- We also know that kids - particularly young kids - are at very low risk of infection and don't appear to be a risk of transferring the virus to others.
- Also, it's important to note that the number of staff and children in child care centres is considerably less compared to how many staff and children are in the average school.

**29. What new measures will child care centres be required to bring in to keep kids safe?**

- Many centres remained open to ensure people who work in essential services could have access to child care during the pandemic and the hard working staff at these centres have already adapted and are operating safely.
- All child care centres will continue to follow the guidelines from the Public Health Officer, which will include frequent handwashing and cleaning and that staff and children need to stay home if they are sick.
- The child care sector will also be required to review and work through new practices in their specific sector standards.

**30. What happens to child care centres that closed due to the pandemic?**

- We provided extra funding for child care centres that closed, to help cover fixed costs like rent or mortgage payments, so they could re-open when able to.
- We know that re-opening child care centres will be a key part of getting parents back to work, so we are hopeful that many centres will start to re-open.

**Legislature Recall**

**31. Can you give us any details on what the legislature returning will look like? How long will the session be, when will it start, and how many MLAs will participate?**

- We will be recalling the Legislature in the weeks ahead.
- House Leader Mike Farnworth will be discussing a plan for the safe resumption of the Legislature with the Clerk and other parties.
- Elected officials have been working hard all across BC to help people and businesses affected by COVID-19.
- We acknowledge the non-partisan approach of all members of the Legislature, as we work together on this pandemic.

**Social Interaction**

**32. Can you clarify what the new measures are around being around 2-6 people and are people allowed to embrace and hug with family members outside their immediate household?**

- As we move toward Phase 2 of B.C.'s Restart Plan, we are asking people to follow the Provincial Health Officer's guidance around personal care - including practicing good hygiene, physical distancing, and staying home when you are sick.

- There are two new elements for people that are being introduced in mid-May:
  - You will be able to expand your household of people you can hug etc. a little bit – for example to include other family members or a very small number of close friends.
  - And you'll be able to carefully socialize in small groups of around 2 to 6 people outside of your household group, while maintaining physical distancing.
- Increasing the number of people in our physical distancing bubble also increases your risk for COVID-19. Therefore, we advise everyone to consider these circumstances carefully and in some situations, it may be prudent to refrain from increasing your bubble, hugging friends, etc.
- There are basic ground rules for everyone, but everyone's situation is going to be a bit different.
- The choices you make about expanding your social circle by 2-6 people will depend on your age and the health of the people that you interact with.
- We need to be mindful when we are interacting with each other and gathering in small groups, and assess our own risks and the risks of those around us.
- If you have any symptoms or have been in contact with anyone who has been recently diagnosed with COVID-19 you need to stay away from others.
- More information on B.C.'s restart plan and the timelines around phases is available here on page 14  
[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/gdx/bcs\\_restart\\_plan\\_web.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/gdx/bcs_restart_plan_web.pdf)

**33. What's your message to people thinking about how they're going to expand their social interaction?**

- It's about doing it cautiously, and in a way that protects all British Columbians and works for your specific situation.
- We've laid down a foundation - some ground rules for everyone:
  - No hand shaking
  - Stay home if you're sick
  - Always maintaining physical distance,
  - Only socialize in small groups of 2 to 6
  - Good hygiene, including frequent handwashing and cleaning.
- But we're all going to have to think carefully about our own situation:
  - When you spend time with one person, you're not just in contact with them. You're in contact with every other person they've been in contact with.
  - People who are at higher risk of severe illness and their families may want to take additional precautions and not open up their social interactions as much.

**34. What does 60% social contact look like compared to what we're doing today?**

- The big changes after the May long weekend will be people gradually beginning to go back to work as safe plans are in place, and being able to socialize in small groups of 2 to 6 people at a time while maintaining physical distance.
- But it's also going to look a bit different for everyone.
- People who are at higher risk of severe illness and their families may want to take additional precautions and not open up their social interactions as much.

**35. Isn't this complicated? I think some people would prefer hard and fast rules like in other provinces?**

- Our approach all along has been to be guided by the science and to allow as much flexibility as possible to support the economy and people's mental wellbeing.
- Other provinces chose to really regulate people going outside, we took a different approach.
- We know everyone's situation is going to be a bit different as we relax these measures -
  - Some people may take advantage of the option to get together with 2 to 6 people, and other higher risk people may not.
  - Some people may carefully see grandparents, and other people who are going back to work may choose not to.
- That's why we're sharing this now, ahead of the May long weekend so that people can think through what this means for them and how they feel comfortable cautiously expanding their own social interactions.

**36. Do I have to only socialize with the same two to six people or is it any two to six people at a time?**

- It's two to six people at a time, but we're all going to need to do this carefully.
- You must continue to maintain that physical distance, and we're all going to have to think carefully about who we're connecting with, how many people, and in what setting.
- When you spend time with one person, you're not just in contact with them. You're in contact with every other person they've been in contact with and so on.
- But it's going to be amazing to see more friends and family soon.

**37. Can I have people over for dinner or a BBQ? How should people do that?**

- After the May long weekend, yes people will have the option of having a small group - 2 to 6 people - over. We've all missed that.
- But it's going to look a bit different:
  - Choosing outdoors over indoors if you can - a backyard or a balcony
  - Always maintaining that 2 metre distance - maybe a separate table for dinner
  - Thinking about the size of the room - so everyone has enough space
  - Always stay away from others if you're sick
  - And maybe continue to have elders or those higher risk participate virtually
- British Columbians have found safe, creative ways to be together even when we're apart, people will find new ways to connect safely with this new advice.

**38. Can my child have a playdate?**

- After the May long weekend, yes people will have the option of having 2 to 6 people outside your household over for a playdate.
- But people are going to have to be really cautious - about who you do that with and how.
- When you spend time with one person, you're in contact with every other person they've been in contact with.
- And physical distancing is obviously harder with kids, so that means even more emphasis on hand hygiene and cleaning toys etc., and of course zero tolerance for getting together if you're sick.



**39. Can I visit my parents/grandparents now?**

- That's a challenging question - and a really personal decision.
- Dr. Henry will speak to the details, but until we have a vaccine or a treatment our elders and people who are high risk remain extremely vulnerable.
- People and families in that situation may not want to open up their social interactions as much, and are going to have to think through what additional precautions they may want to take (e.g. continuing to work from home or continuing to connect virtually).

**Public Transit**

**40. TransLink is set to implement further service reductions on May 18th. Will you be giving TransLink more money so that they can increase service so people can get to work and to support physical distancing?**

- These service reductions were a response to a dramatic 83% decline in ridership.
- We've been clear that we're committed to supporting TransLink to restore service levels as restrictions begin to lift - both to help people get where they need to go, and ensure people can respect physical distancing.
- As we see more people returning to their workplace we expect to see ridership grow.
- We're going to be working with Translink on that.

**41. Will people have to wear masks on public transit? What measures will be in place to protect people as more people start taking public transit?**

- Translink and BC Transit have already put measures in place to protect employees and customers - physical distancing by limiting capacity and blocking off seats, working to install barriers for drivers etc.
- Like all sectors, we're going to be working with them to ensure we have plans in place to keep everyone safe as we gradually relax some of these restrictions.
- That could include things like frequent cleaning, reduced capacity, or asking people to wear non-medical masks.

## **BC Parks**

### **42. Which parks will be open before the May long weekend?**

- Starting May 14, our government will be re-opening many BC Parks for day-use activities.
- British Columbians in every region of the province will be able to get outside and again enjoy many of our parks.
- Public health guidelines advise against any non-essential travel at this time, so only visit parks near your home community.
- Now is not the time to be travelling to other parts of the province.

### **43. Why is XX Park open, but YY camp is still closed?**

- We're re-opening parks where we are sure that physical distancing requirements can be followed and that are near communities for local people to visit.
- For example, people in my home community of Langford will be able to visit Goldstream again and people who live in Chilliwack can again visit Cultus Lake.

- At this time, we aren't re-opening the parks we know are destination parks that draw big crowds like Joffre Lakes near Pemberton or MacMillan near Port Alberni.
- We are continuing to ask people to stay in our own communities and only travel when it's essential.

**44. When can people go camping?**

- Starting June 1, people will be able to camp in many of our beautiful BC parks.
- We want to make sure people can camp in a way that keeps them safe and healthy.
- That might involve limits being placed on the number of people who can be in a campground at any one time.
- We'll have more to say about this closer to June 1.

**45. Why did you wait so long to re-open BC's parks - didn't Dr. Bonnie Henry say the risks for people going to parks was really low?**

- It was a difficult decision to close BC Parks and we made it in line with the federal government's decision to close Parks Canada and other provinces that closed their provincial parks.
- Back in mid-March, we were seeing big crowds of people visiting some of BC's most popular parks and physical distancing guidelines just weren't being followed.
- We were also hearing from serious concerns from First Nations and local governments that too many people were travelling to parks near their communities.
- This has been a really hard time for people, but thanks to British Columbians pulling together, we are now able to re-open many of our beautiful parks.

## **Agriculture**

### **46. How will farmers and producers be helped during the next phase of your reopening plan?**

- BC's farmers and producers are essential services - they keep our grocery stores stocked, feeding our families and communities.
- That's why they have continued to operate during the pandemic, under new health and safety guidelines from Dr. Henry.
- We are hopeful that as restaurants and food service businesses are able to safely welcome more customers that we will start to see less issues with food waste and farmers having to dump fresh produce.
- Minister Popham has been in constant contact with stakeholders in the agriculture sector to listen to their concerns and ensure they're getting the help they need.

### **47. Will farmers be able to bring in more temporary foreign workers in Phase Two?**

- Seasonal labourers are a crucial part of BC's food supply system.
- Every year, thousands of seasonal farm workers travel from their homes in other countries to work on farms and food processing locations all over British Columbia.
- That's why we've worked together with the federal government and the agriculture sector to safely bring skilled seasonal workers to British Columbia.

- Almost 1,150 temporary foreign workers have already arrived in British Columbia to perform seasonal farm work with an additional 4,850 expected over the summer.
- We are helping these workers safely self-isolate in publicly-supported facilities for 14 days before they can begin work.

**48. With the outbreak at the Cargill plant in Alberta and smaller outbreaks at poultry plants in BC, isn't there a risk to allow food processing to continue to operate before WorkSafe plans are in place?**

- The outbreak at the Cargill plant in Alberta and the much smaller ones at poultry plants here in BC are concerning to us.
- It's important we keep our food supply chain functioning, but we absolutely need to make sure workers are safe in these facilities.
- We have ensured that the industry is taking the appropriate precautions, as outlined by Dr. Henry, in terms of operating differently and making sure health and safety measures are in place.
- While all of these plants are federally regulated, we're working closely together to ensure we safeguard our food supply and the workers keep it running.

### **Comparison with other provinces**

**49. Why are you relaxing restrictions later than other provinces?**

- While other provinces begin their first phase of opening their economy, we're beginning our second.
- This means that we already have a successful framework for some businesses to operate on and that British Columbians are already comfortable interacting with businesses in this way.

**50. Why are you reopening schools when most other provinces have closed them until fall?**

- Unlike other provinces, schools in B.C. were never completely closed.
- Schools have been open to support the children of essential service workers, vulnerable students, and to operate meal programs, while in-class instruction has been suspended.
- Now Minister Fleming is working with school boards and public health officials on a plan to gradually and safely increase the number of children in classrooms.
- That's because we understand an important step toward our recovery is getting kids back into the classroom so parents can get back into the workplace.
- But like many other provinces, we don't plan on a full resumption of classroom instruction until September.

**Testing, Tracing and PPE Capacity**

**51. Do you have adequate testing and contact tracing capacity to move forward? How many tests a day do you need? Some are saying right now BC has one of the lowest testing rates in the country.**

- Testing and tracing is a key part of this plan. We've significantly scaled up capacity throughout this pandemic
- Anybody with symptoms in our community can be tested for COVID-19 without a referral. That will continue. We are going to continue ramping up, as we head into the fall.
- Right now, we have the capacity that we believe we need to make sure that we are detecting any cases and any clusters in our community, and we have sufficient testing so that we can rapidly investigate clusters that arise.

**52. Do you have enough PPE for healthcare workers? The BCNU says it's inadequate.**

- We have maintained a steady stream of PPE for healthcare workers, and continue to actively source PPE, knowing that there's going to be some more demand as we go forward.
- Healthcare workers are the frontline in our battle against COVID-19. They are responding courageously to monumental challenges during this unprecedented time – their safety is our fundamental concern.

**53. Now you're saying some non-health sectors may want to use non-medical masks. Why did you leave workers exposed before?**

- As Dr. Henry has said, things like physical distancing, limiting capacity and physical barriers are better protection than masks.
- We've been focused on giving workers the strongest possible protections - for example physical distancing and plexiglass screens in grocery stores.
- But now, as people slowly go back to work and we carefully increase our social interaction, there may be more situations where physical distancing isn't as easy.
- Sectors will be working with WorkSafe and the PHO to determine what's best in their specific context.

# **Temporary pandemic pay supports health and social services workers on frontlines**

## **KEY MESSAGES**

- **Our government is focused on doing everything we can to support the people of B.C. throughout the COVID-19 pandemic – and a big part of that is supporting our frontline workers.**
- **Temporary pandemic pay recognizes the frontline workers providing critical public services in health, social services and corrections to those most vulnerable during the pandemic.**
- **This is vital work where maintaining physical distancing is difficult if not impossible.**
- **Healthy people make up a healthy economy – this is foundational to B.C.'s recovery from COVID-19.**
- **This cost-shared program with the federal government is a welcome next step in B.C.'s response to the pandemic.**

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **1. Will everyone in B.C. designated by the PHO and EMBC as an essential service worker get a top up?**

- **No. Not everyone. Temporary pandemic pay recognizes the frontline workers providing critical public services in health, social services and corrections to those most vulnerable during the pandemic.**
- **This is vital work where maintaining physical distancing is difficult if not impossible.**
- **Our approach is very similar to Ontario, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.**
- **To qualify, people must have been working straight-time hours anytime during a 16-week period, starting on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**



## **Temporary pandemic pay supports health and social services workers on frontlines**

- Casual and on-call workers who have worked straight-time hours during this period are also eligible.
- It's also worth noting that temporary pandemic pay does not apply to excluded management staff, fee-for-service providers or employees on leave.

### **2. What do you say to the thousands of people who are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, like grocery store clerks, who are not eligible for the temporary pandemic pay but feel that they are putting themselves at risk?**

- We know that this current situation is difficult for many people.
- It's encouraging that many private sector employers, such as grocery stores and some banks, are stepping up to provide pay increases for their frontline workers.
- We know grocery stores are doing well, and I applaud employers who are taking some of those extra profits to compensate their staff.
- Our government is focused on supporting low-income workers:
  - That is why we are providing a one-time enhancement to the B.C. Climate Action Tax Credit in July 2020 that will double the amount people receive this year.
  - The additional payment will be up to \$174.50 per adult and up to \$51.25 per child – on top of the existing amounts.
  - Additionally, the minimum wage will be going up as scheduled on June 1, 2020 (increase of \$0.75 to \$14.60 an hour).
  - And we're working with the federal government to ensure there are broad based supports for employers and workers, whether through wage subsidies or enhanced supports.

## **Temporary pandemic pay supports health and social services workers on frontlines**

### **3. How much will the temporary pandemic pay amount to for an eligible worker?**

- Eligible frontline workers can expect to receive a lump-sum payment of about \$4 per hour for straight-time hours worked anytime over a 16-week period, starting on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- For example, the approximate amount per week for a full-time employee is \$140-\$160 depending on the number of regular hours:
  - For example, \$140= \$4\* 35 hours or \$2,240 for 16 week.

### **4. Why \$4 per hour? Where did that number come from?**

- This is a cost-shared program with the federal government, but it's up to provinces to create the program.
- Other provinces are in the process of rolling out similar programs.
- In Ontario, eligible workers receive \$4 per hour on top of existing hourly wages – which is consistent with B.C.'s approach.
- Other provinces are choosing to provide a flat rate of \$400-\$500 per month, which is equivalent to about \$3 – \$4 per hour assuming full-time working hours.

### **5. When can people expect to start receiving pandemic pay?**

- People do not need to take any action – funds will be distributed through their employers.
- Government will be providing the funds to employers within the next few weeks, so they will be responsible for distributing the funds in the weeks and months ahead.
- As the amounts are arriving in lump-sums through employers, people should not expect to see funds on every paycheque.

## **Temporary pandemic pay supports health and social services workers on frontlines**

### **6. How long will workers receive the top up and will earnings be backdated to the beginning of this crisis?**

- People are eligible to receive lump-sum temporary pandemic pay for straight-time hours worked during a 16-week period, starting on March 15<sup>th</sup> and ending the beginning of July.

### **7. How did you decide who qualifies for this benefit?**

- Our government is focused on doing everything we can to support B.C.'s frontline workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Temporary pandemic pay recognizes the frontline workers providing critical public services in health, social services and corrections to those most vulnerable during the pandemic.
- This is vital work where maintaining physical distancing is difficult if not impossible.
- We recognize that there are some people who need more financial support than others during this difficult time – that is why fee-for-service health provider, such as doctors, along with executive and excluded management level employees are not eligible for the payments.
- Ontario recently announced temporary pandemic pay for workers with a similar approach that excludes management and doctors.
- It's encouraging that many private sector employers, such as grocery stores and some banks, are stepping up to provide pay increases for their frontline workers.
- We know grocery stores are doing well, and I applaud employers who are taking some of those extra profits to compensate their staff.

## **Temporary pandemic pay supports health and social services workers on frontlines**

### **8. How many people do you expect will be eligible for the temporary payments?**

- More than 250,000 workers are expected to be eligible for temporary pandemic pay.

### **9. Where can people find the list of eligible occupations?**

- More information is available at [gov.bc.ca/pandemicpay](http://gov.bc.ca/pandemicpay)

### **10. Having child care spaces open is essential to restarting B.C.'s economy. Why aren't they eligible to receive pandemic pay?**

- There's no doubt that this is a difficult time for everyone – and I want to thank the child care workers who have been working hard to support children and families.
- The Province has already taken a number of steps to support thousands of child care centres during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Government has invested over \$90 million to support more than 2,600 child care centres to remain open and more than 1,400 centres that have closed so they can reopen in the future.
- Open child care centres receiving this temporary emergency funding continue to be eligible for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative and the Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement.
- The wage enhancement has provided nearly 12,000 ECEs with a \$1-per-hour wage enhancement, which increased to \$2 per hour on April 1, 2020, to better recognize the work they do.
- We continue to work with child care centres to help ensure ECEs are supported.

## **Temporary pandemic pay supports health and social services workers on frontlines**

### **11. Are people working in long-term care facilities eligible for the top-up?**

- Yes. Wage support for long-term care workers was always a part of government's COVID-19 Action Plan.
- This cost-sharing agreement with the federal government will deliver a financial boost to health and social services workers delivering frontline care to B.C.'s most vulnerable people.

### **12. Other provinces have brought out wage top-up programs for low-income essential workers, including cashiers, grocery clerks, and delivery people. Why isn't B.C. including these private sector frontline workers?**

- This is a cost-shared program with the federal government, but it's up to provinces to create the program.
- Our approach aligns with the majority of province who have announced their programs to-date, including Ontario, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.
- Like most provinces, we are recognizing the frontline workers delivering care to those most vulnerable, where physical distancing is the most difficult.
- We know there are many other critical workers providing supports across our province like grocery clerks, bank attendants, and food processors, and we are pleased to see many of those employers stepping up to provide wage supports.
- For the lowest paid workers, we are also moving ahead with the minimum wage increase on June 1, 2020 (increase of \$0.75 to \$14.60 an hour).
- And our climate action tax credit increase in July will go to over 80% of families, with the most support going to people who are low- and middle-income.

## **WorkSafeBC releases industry-specific guidance for next phase of restart**

**Richmond, B.C. (May 15, 2020)** – Copyright

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## News release

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<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation>.

-30-

**For more information:**

WorkSafeBC Media Relations

Tel: 604-276-5157

[media@worksafebc.com](mailto:media@worksafebc.com)

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## RE: STAKEHOLDER HELP: Template for email invite - stakeholders

---

From: MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX, McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX, Scott, Samantha LBR:EX, Leduc, Danine LBR:EX  
Sent: May 19, 2020 4:34:43 PM PDT

Thanks.

Danine, could you share the stakeholder list for GCPE to send the invites out the same way we would for a normal event.

I don't mind this being as broad as our entire stakeholder list.

-Alex

---

**From:** Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 19, 2020 4:12 PM  
**To:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Leduc, Danine LBR:EX <Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: STAKEHOLDER HELP: Template for email invite - stakeholders

Hi – missed this until now. How do you want to handle this, Alex and Sam? Do you plan to reach out to a mix of stakeholders? Would you like us to contact any? What is the Minister's wish for stakeholder participation/attendance? We are happy to share a contact list and/or contact unions and employer associations.

Thanks.

T.

---

**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 19, 2020 2:57 PM  
**To:** Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Leduc, Danine LBR:EX <Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca>; Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** STAKEHOLDER HELP: Template for email invite - stakeholders  
**Importance:** High

Hi team,

Here is a template for sending email invites to stakeholders to encourage participation in our town hall on Thurs., can you please share the following?

---

### INVITE

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Join us for a virtual townhall on BC's Restart Plan and Workplace Safety with Minister of Labour Harry Bains and Al Johnson of WorksafeBC answering your questions.

**When:** Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. PDT

**Participants:** Harry Bains – Minister of Labour and Al Johnson – Vice President of Prevention Services, WorksafeBC

**Host:** Janet Routledge – MLA for Burnaby North

Participate in the live stream on the [Government of BC Facebook page](#) or watch on Province of BC [YouTube channel](#)  
Please submit your question about the Restart Plan in advance at [gov.bc.ca/covid19townhalls](http://gov.bc.ca/covid19townhalls)

## RE: Rob Shaw follow-up

---

From: MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX  
Cc: Scott, Samantha LBR:EX  
Sent: May 21, 2020 12:13:59 PM PDT

Hi Jules,

Can we check with CITZ on the first question?

s.13

s.13

-Alex

---

**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** May 21, 2020 11:44 AM

**To:** Bains, Harry LBR:EX <Harry.Bains@gov.bc.ca>

**Cc:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Rob Shaw follow-up

Minister,

s.13

Looking at your calendar, you have a small window from 12:20-12:30pm and he said he'd avail himself if that time works for you to call, but we could push to 2 pm if better?

His cell as FYI: 250-893-0841

Thank you,  
Jules

Julianne (Jules) McCaffrey  
Director of Communications; LBR.  
Government of British Columbia  
Ministry of Labour, Government of BC  
O: 778-698-8964 / C: 250-888-8074

Preferred pronouns: she/her/hers

*So grateful to live, learn, share space and share friendship with members from the Lkwungen territory. I am committed to the important work of meaningful reconciliation, and I attempt to tread lightly on this beautiful land that I get to call home.*

## 3627 FW: WorkSafeBC Guidelines

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From: Bains, Harry LBR:EX <Harry.Bains@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Duncan, Kate LBR:EX <Kate.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: December 14, 2020 2:12:40 PM PST  
Attachments: WorkSafeBC COVID-19 Protocols and Resources.pdf

---

**From:** Scott, Samantha LBR:EX  
**Sent:** May 15, 2020 7:47 AM  
**To:** Bains, Harry LBR:EX  
**Cc:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX  
**Subject:** WorkSafeBC Guidelines

Hi Minister,

Please see guidelines from WSBC, these will be released at 11:15am today.

Cheers,

**Samantha Scott** | Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Minister Bains  
Ministry of Labour  
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Gov, Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2 | 778-679-4889

## **Arts and cultural facilities: Protocols for returning to operation**

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### **Developing a COVID-19 safety plan**

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# COVID-19 Safety Plan

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# COVID-19 health and safety

## Cleaning and disinfecting

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# COVID-19 health and safety

## Selecting and using masks

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# Help prevent the spread of COVID-19

## Cover coughs and sneezes

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# Help prevent the spread of COVID-19

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# Help prevent the spread of COVID-19

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# Help prevent the spread of COVID-19: How to use a mask

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Note: Graphics adapted from BC Centre for Disease Control (BC Ministry of Health), "How to wear a face mask."

[worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com)

**WORK SAFE BC**

# Help prevent the spread of COVID-19

Copyright

[worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com)

**WORK SAFE BC**

## 3627 FW: FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

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From: Bains, Harry LBR:EX <Harry.Bains@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Duncan, Kate LBR:EX <Kate.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: December 14, 2020 2:13:04 PM PST  
Attachments: NR - Govt welcomes WorkSafe Guidelines - Draft v.2.docx

---

**From:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX  
**Sent:** May 15, 2020 12:02 PM  
**To:** Bains, Harry LBR:EX ; Sangha, Jasmeet LBR:EX  
**Cc:** Scott, Samantha LBR:EX  
**Subject:** FW: FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

Here is our release to go out today.

I think it looks good. Could you take a quick look at it to make sure you are happy with it too?

-Alex

---

**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <[Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 15, 2020 11:36 AM  
**To:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <[Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca)>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <[Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <[Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca)>; Leduc, Danine LBR:EX <[Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca)>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <[Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca)>; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <[Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

Hi all,

Attached is a NR that is still draft and needs a bit of re-jigging of the bulleted list given the late-night changes to the WorkSafeBC one.

@Alex/Sam: Given constraints and a desire to remain timely in response, do you mind having a cursory look to ensure you're good with its direction?

@Trevor/Danine/Mel: the NR is an unexpected late add to the comm's strategy and will go out as soon as approved, there's no specific time slot w/ corp/cal, but they're aware.

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## 3627 FW: FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

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From: Bains, Harry LBR:EX <Harry.Bains@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Duncan, Kate LBR:EX <Kate.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: December 14, 2020 2:13:21 PM PST  
Attachments: NR - Govt welcomes WorkSafe Guidelines - Draft v.2dl.docx

---

**From:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX

**Sent:** May 15, 2020 12:53 PM

**To:** Bains, Harry LBR:EX ; 'Bains, Harry'

**Subject:** FW: FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

Sorry it was updated again. Nothing changed in your quotation other than one word added by Danine.

-Alex

---

**From:** Leduc, Danine LBR:EX <[Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** May 15, 2020 12:41 PM

**To:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <[Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca)>; MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX

<[Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca)>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <[Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <[Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca)>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <[Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca)>; Wey,

Melody GCPE:EX <[Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

Looks great – minor add to Minister's statement in tracked..

Thanks

Danine

---

**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <[Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** May 15, 2020 11:36 AM

**To:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <[Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca)>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <[Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <[Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca)>; Leduc, Danine LBR:EX <[Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danine.Leduc@gov.bc.ca)>; Smith,

Jimmy GCPE:EX <[Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca)>; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <[Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - Labour NR

Hi all,

Attached is a NR that is still draft and needs a bit of re-jigging of the bulleted list given the late-night changes to the WorkSafeBC one.

@Alex/Sam: Given constraints and a desire to remain timely in response, do you mind having a cursory look to ensure you're good with its direction?

@Trevor/Danine/Mel: the NR is an unexpected late add to the comm's strategy and will go out as soon as approved, there's no specific time slot w/ corp/cal, but they're aware.

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## Scott, Samantha LBR:EX

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**From:** Scott, Samantha LBR:EX  
**Sent:** May 19, 2020 12:58 PM  
**To:** Devereux, Rick GCPE:EX; McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Media Avail

All good, thank you for confirming. Yes 10:15am works at VCO.

Cheers,

**Samantha Scott** | Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Minister Bains  
Ministry of Labour  
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Gov, Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2 | 778-679-4889

---

**From:** Devereux, Rick GCPE:EX <Rick.Devereux@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 19, 2020 12:55 PM  
**To:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Media Avail

Sorry – multiple email chains.

This will not be included in the Premier's avail tomorrow and should take place at the VCO, Minister on his own on Thursday. Does 10:15 AM work?

Thanks  
Rick

---

**From:** Devereux, Rick GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 19, 2020 8:50 AM  
**To:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <[Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca)>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <[Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media Avail

I'll have word back for you from the PO about the possibility of tomorrow within the next few hours. Otherwise it will be Thursday.

Tomorrow would be 1:30PM if the Minister is joining the Premier.

If the PO decides not to proceed tomorrow and we do this Thursday, can you re-confirm the Minister's availability for me – it would be 10-11am?

In either case, he would be on site at the VCO.

Thanks  
Rick



---

**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <[Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 19, 2020 8:36 AM  
**To:** Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <[Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Devereux, Rick GCPE:EX <[Rick.Devereux@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rick.Devereux@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media Avail

Yep, we're all over it.

Thank you,  
Jules

Julianne (Jules) McCaffrey  
Director of Communications; LBR.  
Government of British Columbia  
Ministry of Labour, Government of BC  
O: 778-698-8964 / C: 250-888-8074

Preferred pronouns: she/her/hers

*So grateful to live, learn, share space and share friendship with members from the Lkwungen territory. I am committed to the important work of meaningful reconciliation, and I attempt to tread lightly on this beautiful land that I get to call home.*

On May 19, 2020, at 8:29 AM, Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <[Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Good morning,

Rick, any word when the media avail will take place?

Jules, the minister will want material today if the media avail is tomorrow.

Thanks,

Sam

Sent from my iPhone

On May 15, 2020, at 3:22 PM, Devereux, Rick GCPE:EX <[Rick.Devereux@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rick.Devereux@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Jules,

We do want to proceed with it - the large variable at this point would be whether the Minister joins the Premier for his weekly media avail on Wednesday after cabinet at about 1:30 PM, or if the Minister does this on his own on Thursday morning.

I will follow up with the Premier's office right away to see if there is any clarity on that at this point, but we may not know until Tuesday.

Thanks  
Rick.

---

**From:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <[Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 15, 2020 3:20 PM  
**To:** Devereux, Rick GCPE:EX <[Rick.Devereux@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rick.Devereux@gov.bc.ca)>; Scott, Samantha LBR:EX <[Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Media Avail

I may be confused, but I understood that we were waiting to hear back on the potential media avail next week at VCO (separate of town hall), but I don't see it in corp. cal. – have we firmed it up?

Thank you,  
Jules

Julianne (Jules) McCaffrey  
Director of Communications, LBR  
Government of British Columbia  
D: 778-698-8964  
C: 250-888-8074

**Preferred pronouns:** *(she/her/hers)*

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