

FW: Restart materials

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Attachments: 2021PREM0037-001008.pdf, BcRestartPlan_PPP_20210525_v5.pdf, KMQA Restart May 25 FINAL.docx

Please see the attached from the restart announcement today.
(yay!)

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Subject: Restart materials

Good afternoon, attached please find the news release, Q&As and technical briefing deck for today's Restart announcement.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2021PREM0037-001008
May 25, 2021

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

B.C. launches restart plan to safely bring people back together

VICTORIA – With more than 60% of adults vaccinated with their first dose and COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations steadily declining, British Columbia is moving forward with the cautious first step of a four-step plan for a careful and safe restart.

“British Columbians have sacrificed so much over the last 15 months to help keep people and our communities safe,” said Premier John Horgan. “We have made tremendous strides with our vaccination program, and we are now in a position where we can move forward with a plan to slowly bring us back together. As we have done throughout this pandemic, we will be closely following the guidance of public health and supporting people and businesses as we take the next steps in putting this pandemic behind us.”

BC’s Restart – A four-step plan to bring B.C. back together will be a slow and gradual return to a more normal life, with safety and health protocols such as mask wearing and physical distancing remaining in place and mandatory during the initial two steps of the plan.

The four-step plan was designed based on data and guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.’s provincial health officer (PHO). Progressing through the steps will be measured by the number of adults vaccinated, COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations and deaths, taking into account clusters and outbreaks. While there are approximate dates, the plan will be guided by data, not dates, and will not proceed to the next step until it is safe to do so based on guidance from public health and the latest available data.

“We have been on a long and tiring journey, and now we can start to chart our path forward to brighter days ahead,” Henry said. “To be successful in this next phase of the pandemic, we need to keep COVID-19 low and slow. To do that, we need to be slow and measured in our approach, gradually turning up the dial on how we spend time together – whether that is socializing with family, going to work or visiting friends.”

The step-by-step plan will follow approximate timelines and will ease people and businesses slowly out of the pandemic.

The four steps are:

Step 1: May 25

- 60% of adult population with Dose 1
- COVID-19 cases stable, hospitalizations stable.
 - Maximum of five visitors or one household allowed for indoor personal gatherings
 - Maximum of 10 people for outdoor personal gatherings

- Maximum of 10 people for seated indoor organized gatherings with safety protocols
- Maximum of 50 people for seated outdoor organized protocols with safety protocols
- Recreational travel only within travel region (travel restrictions extended)
- Indoor and outdoor dining for up to six people with safety protocols
- Resume outdoor sports (games) with no spectators, low-intensity fitness with safety protocols
- Start gradual return to workplace
- Provincewide mask mandate, business safety protocols and physical distancing measures remain in place
- Return of indoor in-person faith-based gatherings (reduced capacity) based on consultation with public health

Step 2: Mid-June (June 15 – earliest date)

- 65% of adult population with Dose 1
- Cases declining, COVID-19 hospitalizations declining
 - Maximum of 50 people for outdoor social gatherings
 - Maximum of 50 people for seated indoor organized gatherings (banquet halls, movie theatres, live theatre) with safety protocols
 - Consultation process to prepare for larger indoor and outdoor gatherings with safety protocols
 - No B.C. travel restrictions – check local travel advisories
 - Indoor sports (games) and high-intensity fitness with safety protocols
 - Spectators for outdoor sports (50 maximum)
 - Provincewide mask mandate, business safety protocols and physical distancing measures remain in place

Step 3: Early July (July 1 – earliest date)

- 70% of adult population with Dose 1
- Cases low, COVID-19 hospitalizations declining
 - Provincial state of emergency and public health emergency lifted
 - Returning to usual for indoor and outdoor personal gatherings
 - Increased capacity for indoor and outdoor organized gatherings, with safety plans
 - Nightclubs and casinos reopened with capacity limits and safety plans
 - New public health and workplace guidance around personal protective equipment, physical distancing and business protocols

Step 4: Early September (Sept. 7 – earliest date)

- More than 70% of adult population with Dose 1
- Cases low and stable (contained clusters), COVID-19 hospitalizations low
 - Returning to normal social contact
 - Increased capacity at larger organized gatherings
 - No limits on indoor and outdoor spectators at sports
 - Businesses operating with new safety plans

For Step 1 and Step 2, restaurants, bars and pubs, as well as indoor fitness facilities, are to

return to the existing safety protocols that were in place prior to the circuit breaker restrictions. For other sectors, existing safety protocols remain in place for Step 1 and Step 2, including existing safety protocols at schools and daycares. In Step 1, hotels and other accommodation providers are encouraged to welcome guests from inside their region. In Step 2, the invitation can be extended to guests from throughout the province.

Prior to steps 3 and 4, sector associations will work with public health and WorkSafeBC to update sector guidelines to meet updated public health guidance.

All updated workplace safety plans should be ready by July 1 prior to shifting into Step 3. These plans will be based on updated sector guidelines.

Roundtables led by ministries across government will engage with industry and labour, along with WorkSafeBC and public health, to help develop comprehensive updated industry-specific safety plans, as well as engage with First Nations and municipal governments.

“We are able to begin this restart because of the sacrifice and dedication from so many people and businesses throughout B.C.,” said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. “As we transition through the restart plan we will continue to engage with businesses, industry and key stakeholders. I know that the entrepreneurial spirit of B.C.’s business community will again rise to the challenge as we work together to build a brighter and better future with meaningful jobs and a strong, sustainable economy for all.”

In-class K-12 education will continue to operate under existing safety protocols for steps 1 and 2. In preparation for the return to classes in the fall, the COVID-19 education steering committee will work with public health officials to update safety guidelines.

The Province is formally extending the provincial state of emergency through the end of the day on June 8, 2021, allowing health and emergency management officials to continue to use extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act to support the Province's COVID-19 pandemic response. The original declaration was made on March 18, 2020, the day after Henry declared a public health emergency, and can be extended for periods of up to 14 days at a time.

Provincial travel restrictions will continue to be enforced until Step 2 of the four-step plan.

Learn More:

To view the May 25, 2021, media presentation on BC’s Restart, visit: (PPT)

To learn more about BC’s Restart – A four-step plan to bring B.C. back together, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc

To learn about B.C.’s current travel restrictions, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/covidtravel>

To learn about current PHO restrictions, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/COVIDrestrictions>

To get registered to get a first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html>

For technical immunization information, visit the BCCDC’s website: www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine

For more information on what to expect when you go to get vaccinated for COVID-19, visit:
www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/getting-a-vaccine

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BC'S RESTART

BC's RESTART: A Plan to Bring Us Back Together

May 25, 2021



A Plan to Bring Us Back Together

BC's Restart is a careful, four-step plan to help bring us back together

**Our approach, like last year's restart, is focused on protecting people
and safely getting back to a more normal life**

We now have an important tool supporting our fight against the pandemic – vaccines

**With more and more people getting vaccinated each day, we can gradually restart our
important social connections, businesses, and activities**

How We Got Here

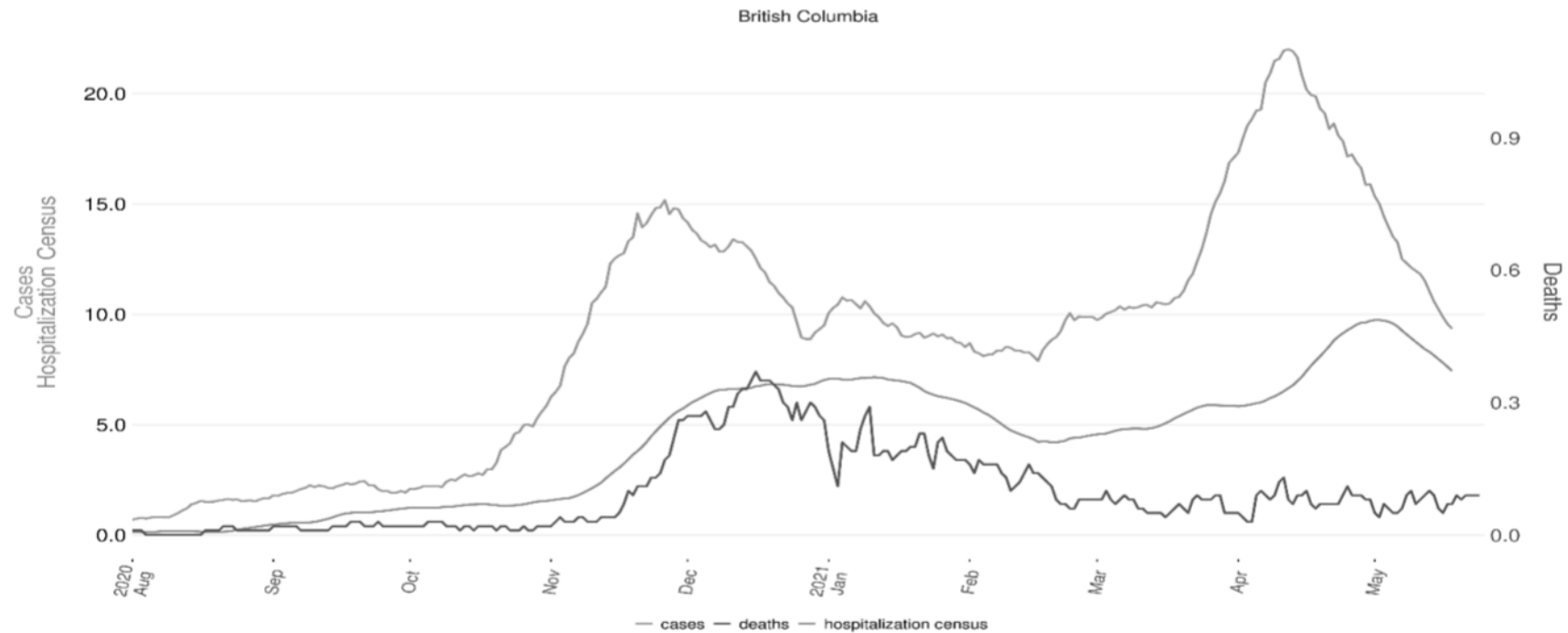
- **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020** (the Second Wave)
 - Limit guests in private residences to 6
 - Province-wide restrictions introduced for indoor social gatherings
- **NOVEMBER 2020**
 - Province-wide suspension of events
 - Cases and COVID-19 hospitalizations trending up
- **DECEMBER 15, 2020**
 - First vaccine administered in BC
- **FEBRUARY 2021**
 - All of long-term care vaccinated with first dose – declining outbreaks at long-term care
 - Health care workers, Indigenous communities, most vulnerable populations receive 1st dose

How We Got Here

- **MARCH-APRIL 2021** (the Third Wave)
 - Surge in cases
 - Increased pressure on health care system
 - New temporary measures/restrictions (circuit breaker)
 - British Columbians step up and reduce social interactions and travel
 - BC businesses pull together to keep people safe
- **APRIL-MAY 2021**
 - British Columbians register for vaccines in record numbers
- **MAY 24, 2021**
 - More than 60% of people aged 18+ vaccinated with first dose

Vaccination is Making a Difference in BC

New daily rates per 100K population
(7-day moving average)



Data up to 2021-05-24

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BC'S RESTART: A PLAN TO BRING US BACK TOGETHER

Foundations for a Successful Restart

People are getting vaccinated

More than 60% of British Columbians aged 18+ are vaccinated with their first dose — everyone 12+ now eligible

COVID-19 case counts declining

7-day average of case counts down more than 65% to 384 (May 23rd) from peak of 1135 (April 12th)

Fewer people are in hospital

COVID-19 hospitalization rates are declining from a 7-day average peak of 505 (May 2nd) to 353 (May 21st)

A steady vaccine supply

More and more vaccines are arriving each week – over 1 million doses of Pfizer in May

Our Focus

Bringing us back together – gradually

Keeping BC safe, getting people vaccinated and making sure our sacrifices aren't put at risk

Providing British Columbians with as much predictability as we can about our path forward

Supporting sectors across our economy as they adjust Safety Plans, return to normal operation

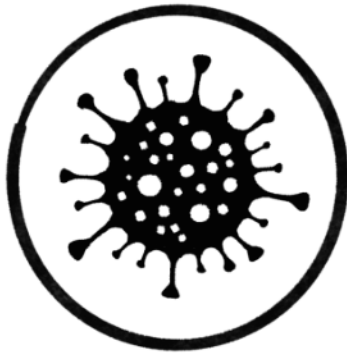
Staying flexible, monitoring the data and learning from our restart

STEP	Criteria	PHO Guidance	Personal Gatherings	Organized Gatherings	Travel	Sports & Activities	Businesses	Offices & Workplaces
1 MAY 25	C: stable H: stable D1: 60%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 10 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 10 people Outdoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people	Recreational travel within your zone Non-essential travel between zones restricted	Low-intensity indoor fitness classes Outdoor local team games and practices for all ages – no spectators	Indoor & outdoor dining – up to 6 people Liquor service - 10PM Existing WorkSafeBC Safety Plans remain in place	Start gradual return to workplaces and offices Existing Safety Plans remain in place
2 JUNE 15 (Earliest date)	C: declining H: declining D1: 65%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 50 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household Playdates	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people Sector consultations on next steps on indoor and outdoor gatherings	BC recreational travel BC Transit and BC Ferries – increased services as needed	High-intensity indoor fitness classes - reduced capacity Indoor team games for all ages – no spectators Spectators for outdoor sports – up to 50 people	Liquor service – midnight Banquet halls reopen – limited capacity, Safety Plans Sector consultations on next steps on easing of restrictions	Continue return to work Small in-person meetings
3 JULY 1 (Earliest date)	C: low H: declining D1: 70%	Masks – recommended Careful social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings Sleepovers	Increased capacity, indoor and outdoor gatherings – Safety Plan Fairs & festivals with Safety Plan	Canada recreational travel	All indoor fitness classes – increased capacity Limited spectators for indoor sports	Dining – no group limit Bingo halls, casinos and nightclubs – limited capacity Operate based on new Safety Plans	Seminars and bigger meetings Operate based on new Safety Plans
4 SEPT 7 (Earliest date)	C: low H: low D1: 70%+	Masks – personal choice Normal social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Normal social contact	Increased capacity on large organized gatherings (i.e. concerts)	Canada recreational travel	Increased indoor and outdoor spectators Return of normal sport competitions – Safety Plans	Continue to operate based on new Safety Plans	Fully re-opened offices and workplaces

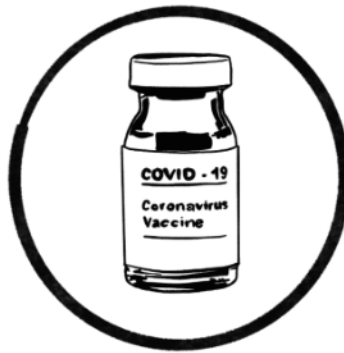
C: C-19 case counts **H:** C-19 hospitalizations **D1:** minimum % of people 18+ with dose 1

Moving Forward Through the Steps

To progress through the four steps of our plan, we will be looking at:



COVID-19 case
counts trends



Vaccination rates
for 18+



COVID-19 hospitalizations
including critical care



COVID-19
mortality

Increased vaccination rates will be central to moving forward

Keeping Each Other Safe

We must keep up our layers of protection as we move through BC's Restart and work towards achieving community immunity.



Get vaccinated



Follow mask guidance



Stay home and get tested when you're sick



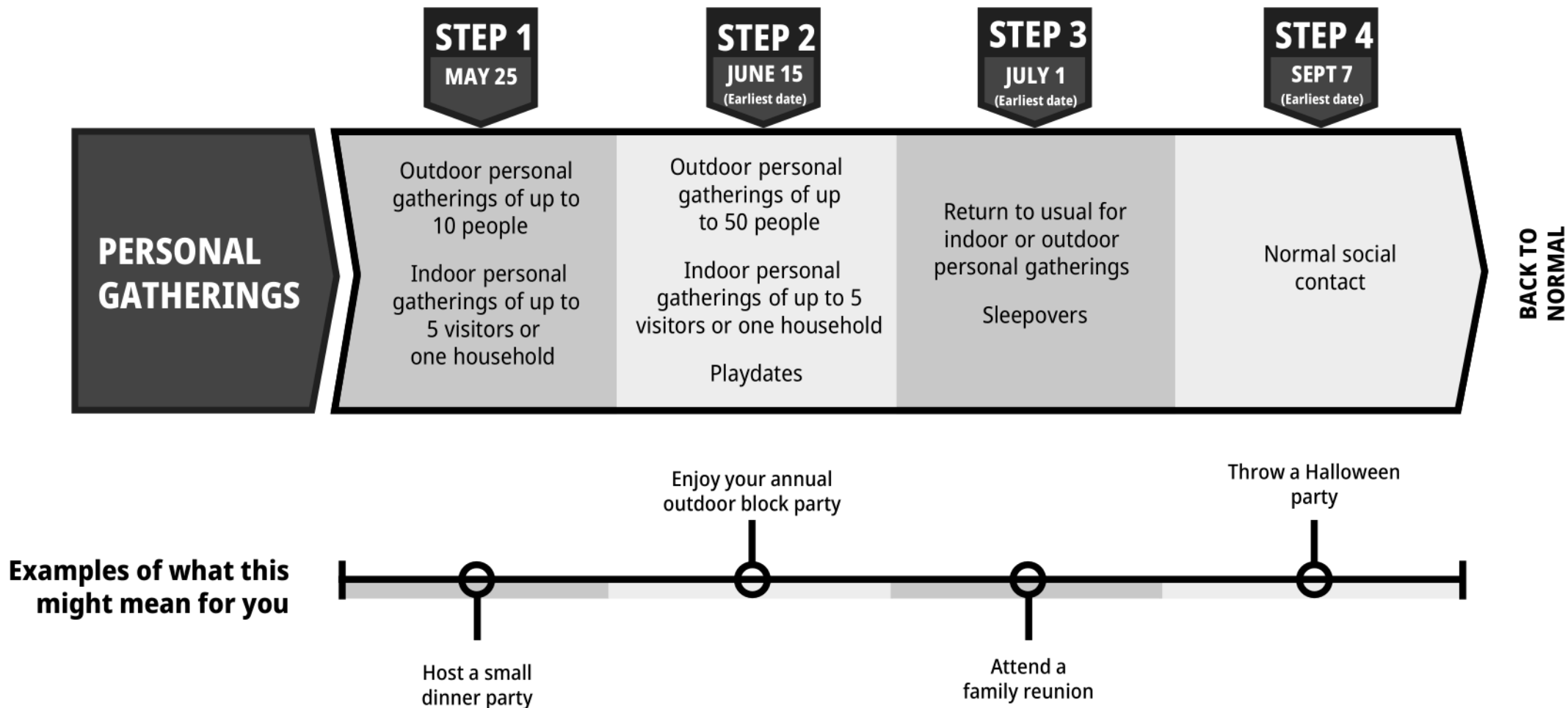
Follow WorkSafeBC guidelines for workplaces

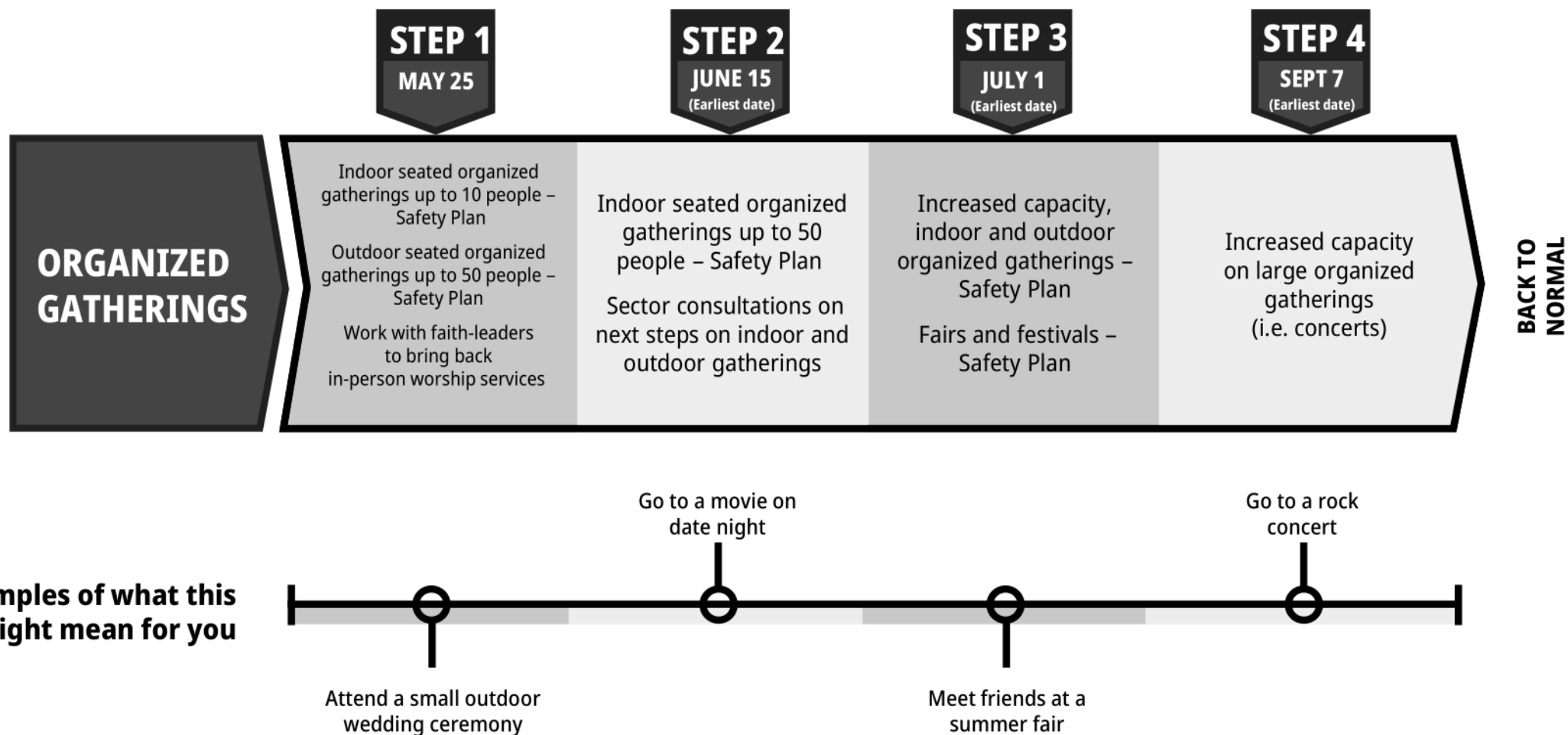


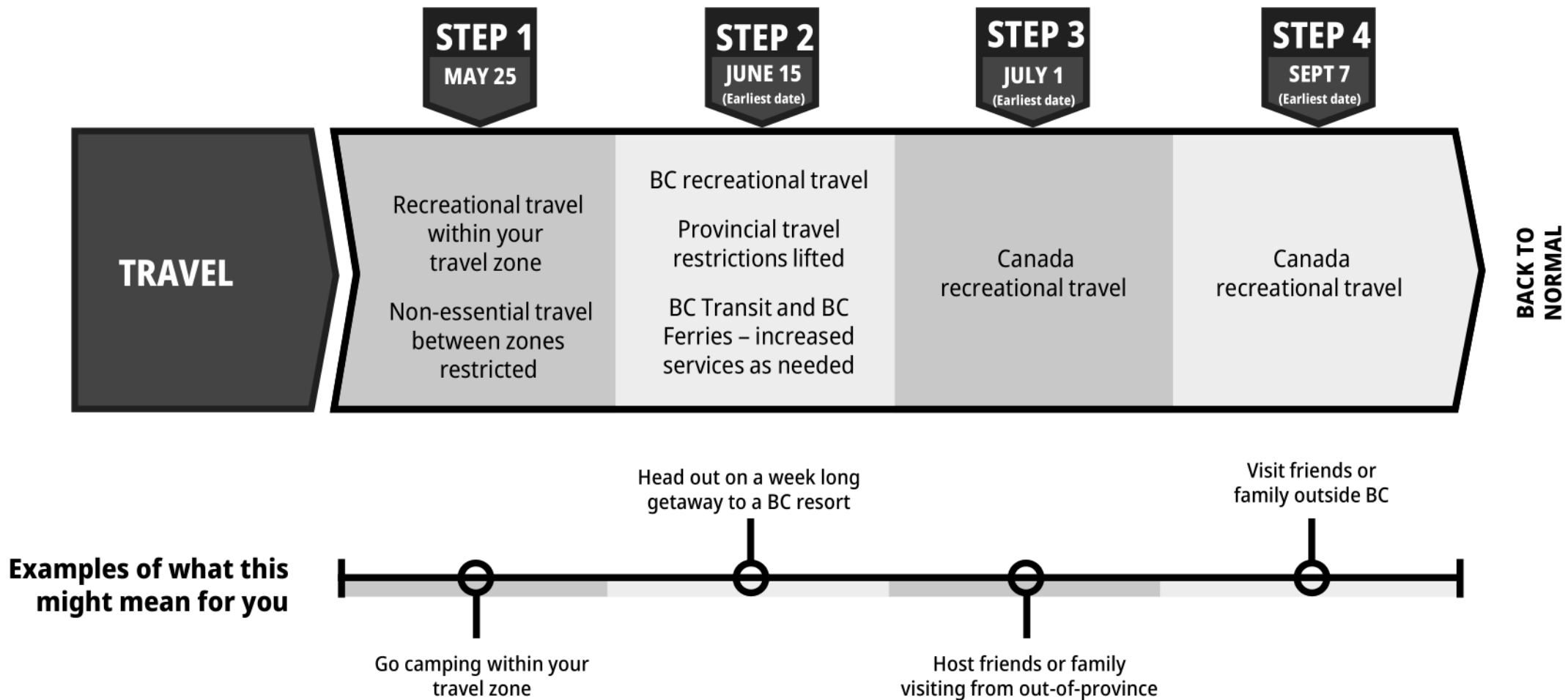
It's always safer outdoors

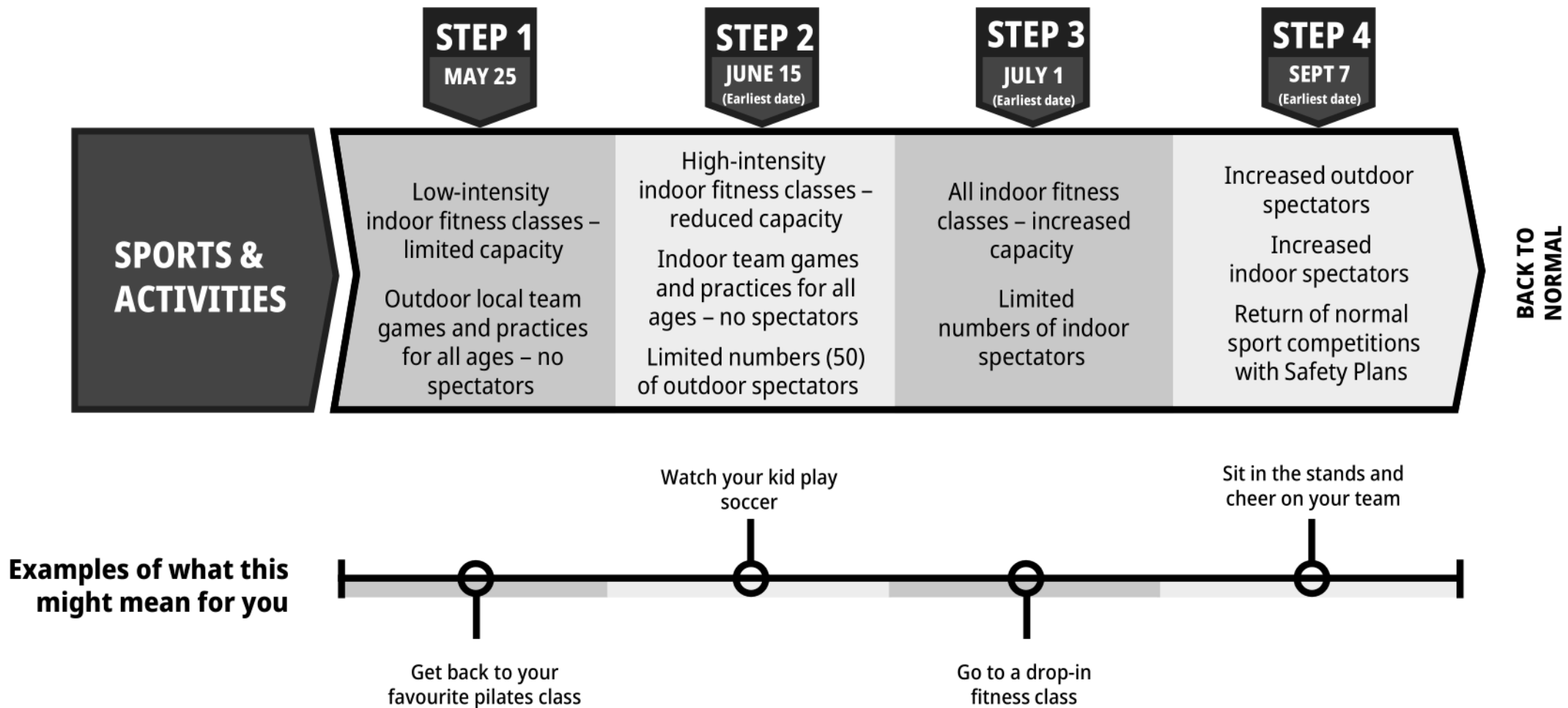


Consider other people's situation



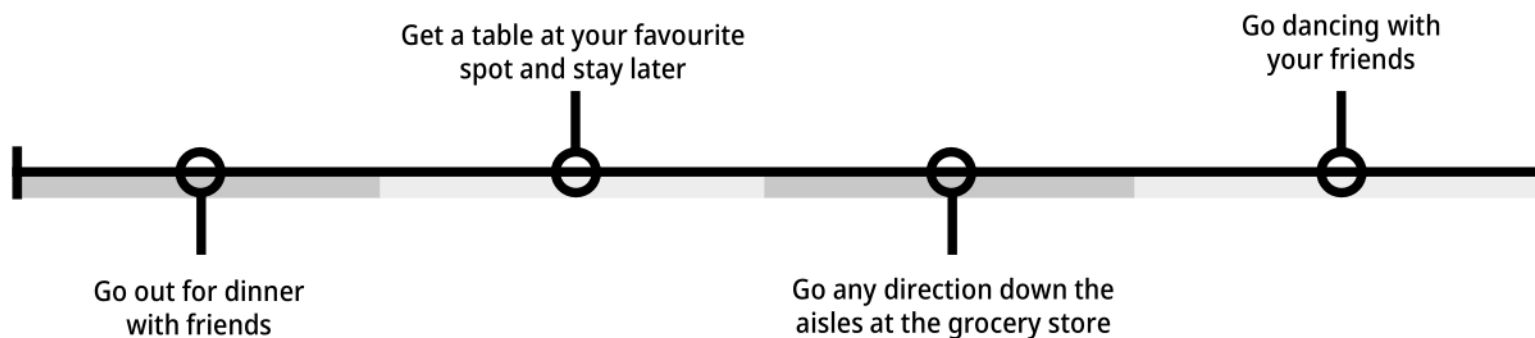




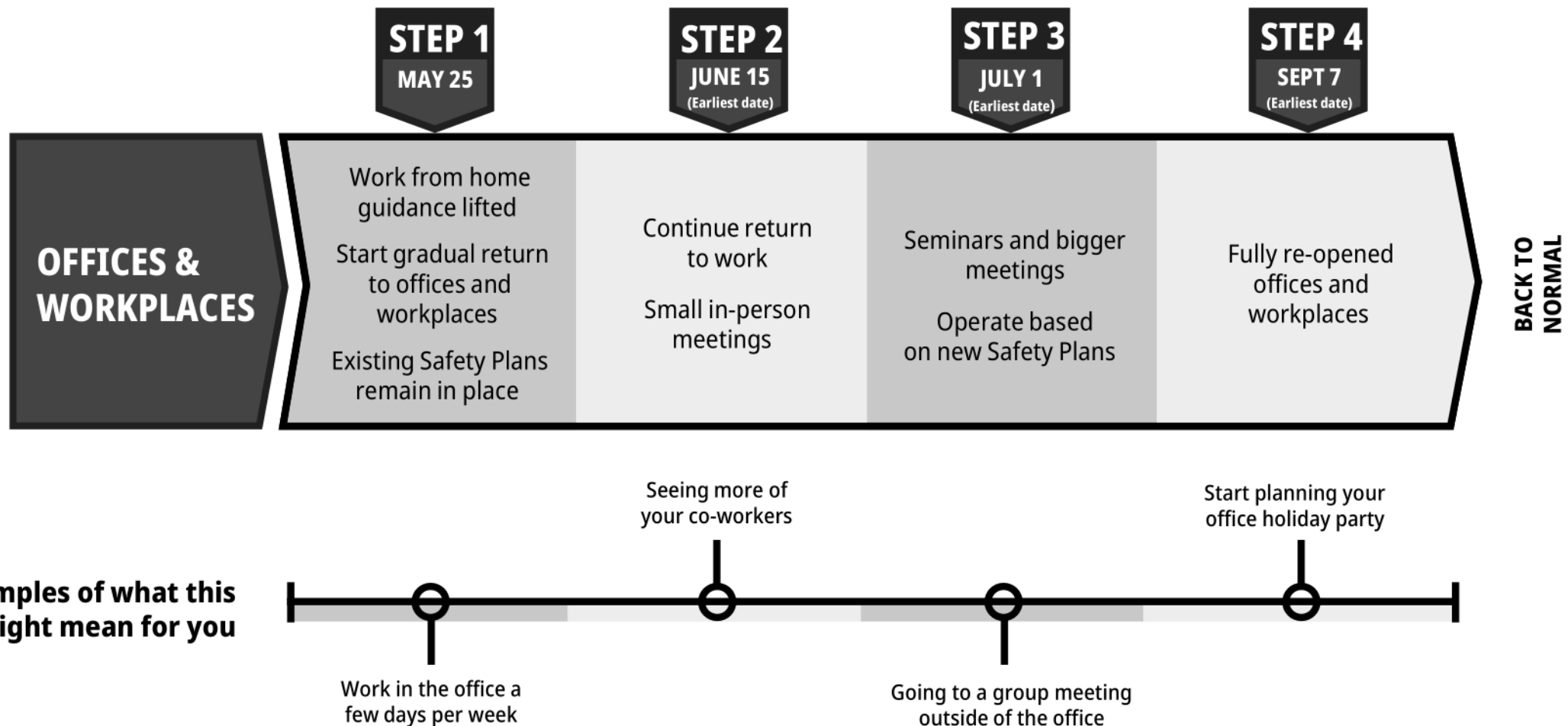




Examples of what this might mean for you



BC'S RESTART: A PLAN TO BRING US BACK TOGETHER



Engaging and Supporting Employers

- Roundtables will be initiated by ministries across government to engage with industry and labour to develop comprehensive updated industry-specific Safety Plans – as well as engaging with First Nations and municipal governments.
- WorkSafeBC will continue to support employers with oversight, tools and resources to help keep their plans up-to-date – including 30 industry-specific protocols.
- Last year, WorkSafeBC carried out nearly 3,900 employer consultations to support employers with their Safety Plans and conducted more than 22,000 inspections in workplaces and sectors experiencing higher transmission.

Updating WorkSafeBC Safety Plans

In Step 1 and Step 2:

Restaurants, bars and pubs, as well as indoor fitness facilities, will return to existing safety protocols in place prior to the circuit breaker.

Accommodation sector to accept bookings from within regional zone (Step 1) and then across BC (Step 2).

For other sectors, existing safety protocols remain in place.

Sector associations will work with public health and WorkSafeBC to update sector guidelines to meet updated public health guidance, in advance of Step 3.

In Step 3 and Step 4:

New public health guidance in place.

All workplace Safety Plans should be updated by July 1 – based on updated sector guidelines – in order to transition to Step 3.

Updated Safety Plans for workplaces will be developed with guidance from PHO and WorkSafeBC.

Employers must involve frontline workers, joint health and safety committees, and supervisors in identifying protocols for their workplace.

Moving Forward, Together

- We are in a position to restart thanks to the efforts of so many – including the more than 2.7 million people who have received dose 1.
- We must support our friends, family and community to get vaccinated, including their second doses.
- We will enter the fall and winter respiratory season as a community vaccinated against COVID-19. We will continue to monitor and respond to COVID-19.
- Everyone's level of comfort and tolerance for risk will be different.
- As we move forward, we will continue to focus on keeping people safe and follow the advice of public health officials.

BC'S RESTART

BC's RESTART: A Plan to Bring Us Back Together

May 25, 2021



KM-QA

Restart Plan – Health

Key Messages

- BC's Restart is a step-by-step plan to bring us back together.
- Like last year's successful restart, we will move forward carefully, informed by data and guided by public health advice.
- And with each step, our focus will be on protecting British Columbians and ensuring our sacrifices aren't put at risk.
- The number of British Columbians who have received the vaccine is allowing us to reduce public health orders and restrictions in a careful and gradual way.
- As new vaccine shipments arrive, more and more British Columbians are getting vaccinated, while doing their part to reduce transmission.
- Your actions are making a difference now and your actions will matter through our restart.
- If we stay the course, we can resume much needed visits with friends and family and support a strong economic recovery for our province.
- The pandemic has been tough on everyone. It's impacted people, businesses and communities.
- But British Columbians are resilient and we're determined – and we're pulling together to put this pandemic behind us.

Key terms

- Restart
- Careful
- Step-by-step
- Moving forward
- Protecting people
- Economic Recovery

Questions & Answers

GENERAL

1. Why is it safe to proceed with this plan now?

- Pandemics occur when people do not have immunity to an infection – increased vaccination in communities across British Columbia has completely changed the pandemic equation.
- Previously, a single outbreak could have resulted in transmission of the virus that could not be easily controlled – which is why orders and restrictions were necessary.
- Now, with vaccination levels at 60% and rising, we can carefully and gradually reduce restrictions without the threat of uncontrollable increases in transmission.
- This is due to British Columbians following public health advice, and most importantly getting vaccinated – they deserve our thanks.
- Orders and restrictions are extraordinary measures that have significant impacts on people and communities.
- From the outset of this pandemic, we have tried to balance the risk of mass transmission and the significant impacts of orders and restrictions.
- The virus is still with us, and clusters of transmission are still likely to occur, which is why we are proceeding with caution, monitoring the data, and updating public health advice to keep people safe.

2. What do you say to people who feel this is moving too fast?

- We've laid out our plan to provide British Columbians with as much predictability as we can.
- This plan is guided by the best advice of public health professionals, and they have assured us this is a reasonable way to move forward at this time.
- We are following the data - more people are getting vaccinated every day, while our case counts, and hospitalizations are declining.
- But we will be staying flexible, monitoring data and learning from our restart. This is a roadmap of where we want to get to.
- The gradual lifting of orders and restrictions will only happen as it is safe to do so.

3. Why does [x thing] open slowly?

- Our priority throughout this pandemic has been keeping people safe.
- We've laid out our plan to provide British Columbians with as much predictability as we can.

- This plan is guided by the best advice of public health professionals about what is safe given our current situation and what we expect in the coming weeks.
- We will be staying flexible, monitoring data and learning from our restart. This is a roadmap of where we want to get to.

4. Why doesn't the plan mention [x sector or business]?

- Our restart plan lays out major changes across various parts of our society and economy.
- Specific details for sectors will be developed through consultation between representatives from the sector, ministry staff, public health officials and Worksafe BC.
- Businesses and organizations not directly mentioned by the plan should continue to follow the COVID-19 safety plans they have in place right now.
- PHO orders, safety guidelines and workplace safety plans will be updated through consultation as we move through steps of restart.

5. When will mask requirements change?

- There is no change in steps 1 and 2. Masks will continue to be mandatory in indoor public settings – like retail stores, workplaces, and public transit.
- We anticipate lifting the mask mandate as we enter Step 3 but the use of masks in indoor settings and when physical distance cannot be maintained will still be recommended through the summer.
- Some businesses or settings may continue to have a mask requirement in their COVID-19 safety plans for a longer time.
- Any change to mask requirements in schools will be done in consultation with the education steering committee.

6. How will people and businesses be notified that we're going to the next step and how far in advance?

- If we all continue to do our part, and follow the rules and guidelines that are in place, we should be able to move through the plan as laid out.
- We will continue to be in regular communication with the public about where we are in our progress through the restart.
- In addition, we will continue to engage with businesses, Indigenous people, local governments, and other organizations on the restart plan as we move forward.
- Part of this work will be to revise safety guidelines as we progress.

7. Will there be regional restrictions / will the restart happen sooner in some parts of British Columbia than others?

- No. We've tried regional approaches in the past and we've seen how interconnected the province is.

- We're going to be moving forward together to gradually re-open and bring people back together.
 - At the same time, we will respond to local situations with appropriate resources as we have done so in community wide immunization campaigns.
- 8. Will you go backwards in your plan if cases get too high?**
- British Columbians have come together to bend the curve and bend back the third wave.
 - I'm confident that if people keep coming out to get their vaccination and we keep following public health guidelines, that we will be able to flatten the curve and continue moving forward.
 - That means that our response to COVID-19 after immunization will look different than it did before.
 - This Restart Plan will happen slowly and gradually and public health professionals will monitor and make sure the province is not seeing a resurgence of the virus as we move forward.
 - That is why we have built in time between each stage to monitor and ensure the measures are still working; if something changes we may have to slow down.
- 9. What will happen to this plan if there is a fourth wave?**
- We know this virus can spread very quickly.
 - We will not let our guard down and that is why we are moving carefully in our restart and public health will continue to monitor.
 - The virus is still with us and transmission will continue occur – but public health will manage these cases as is done with annual and seasonal increases with other respiratory viruses.
 - The more gradually and carefully we proceed – and the faster we get vaccinated – the less likely we'll see significant increases in transmission.
 - The measures people have taken has made a difference, as the curve comes down even as more and more people are protected through vaccination.
 - As always, we will closely monitor the situation both here in B.C. and globally and we will respond accordingly.

METRICS AND THRESHOLDS

- 10. It looks like you've already hit ~65% vaccination. Why not move to Step 2?**

- Vaccination rates are just part of what we are looking at as we move through a careful and safe restart.
- The percentage of people with a first dose is a minimum threshold that needs to be met, but we need to be monitoring over the coming weeks, the other factors including daily cases and hospitalizations.

11. Why are your vaccination metrics lower than other provinces?

- This is a plan for our province and is based on the best advice of our public health professionals.
- This is a minimum vaccination level necessary to remove some of the most stringent restrictions.
- Vaccination rates are combined with other measures such as hospitalization to enable us to monitor our progress and whether our actions are working.
- The goal of our Covid 19 immunization program in BC remains to vaccinate all eligible people in B.C. as quickly as possible and we continue to make good progress.
- Dr Henry and her team have been carefully monitoring cases and hospitalizations as well as the real world effects we've seen here in B.C. from vaccinations.
- The careful steps laid out in our plan are based on their advice and expertise.

12. PHAC has suggested that restrictions should not be eased until 75% of people have a first dose and 20% of people have a second dose. Why are you easing restrictions before reaching that threshold?

- This will be a gradual, careful restart. Vaccination coverage is only one of the metrics that allows us to move forward through the steps of our restart plan.
- We're also looking at things like case counts, hospitalizations and outbreaks and clusters.
- Our plan is based on what we are seeing here in B.C. and the best advice of our public health experts.
- With declining case counts, declining hospitalizations, and a steady vaccine supply, we're in a good position to begin carefully re-opening here in B.C.
- We need to have appropriate measures to control the virus while allowing people to get back to the activities they've not been able to do.
- The focus will always be on preventing transmission and keeping people safe, while minimizing social disruption.

13. If variants take over – will the vaccination metrics need to increase?

- These are the minimum thresholds needed to move to the next step of the restart plan.
- We're also looking at other metrics, like case counts, hospitalizations, outbreaks and clusters.
- At every step we'll be moving forward when public health advises us it is safe to do so.
- No matter which strain of COVID-19 we are dealing with, vaccinations are our most important tool for putting this pandemic behind us.
- The measures we put in place to prevent transmission work against all variants of the virus.
- We must continue to ask our family, friends and community to get vaccinated, including second doses and continue to follow public health measures at every step.
- The more people who are vaccinated, the safer all of us are from COVID-19.

PERSONAL GATHERINGS

14. Is it safe to have these small personal gatherings with people outside your household in Step 1?

- This plan is guided by the best advice of public health officials.
- Public health officials have been very carefully watching a full range of metrics about transmission and the impact of our immunization program.
- As more and more people are getting vaccinated every day, and case counts decline, it is safer to do things we haven't been able to do for some time.
- We need to be respectful of one another's decisions about what we are comfortable with doing – it is still ok to decline an invitation and we should all be understanding of that.
- The more people in the group are vaccinated, the lower the risk. Remember, it takes 14 days after vaccination before you are protected.

15. Do I have to maintain distance during outdoor and indoor personal gatherings?

- No. If you're ready to do so, you don't have to keep a distance when you're at a personal gathering indoors or outdoors.
- Getting vaccinated is the most important part of being safe around other people.
- But everyone's level of comfort will be different. You can gather in whichever way you are most comfortable with.
 - Personal gatherings outdoors and keeping a distance come with a lower level of risk if that's important to you for your personal situation.
- It's important that you continue to follow all public health orders and guidelines – in this case that means your outdoor personal gathering can currently have up to 10 people, and your indoor visitors can be up to 5 people, or one other household.

16. Is it safe for someone who is not vaccinated to gather with other people indoors?

- At every stage in this pandemic, B.C.'s response has been guided by the best available science, and the advice of public health experts, like Dr. Bonnie Henry.
- When the risk is lower in our communities, it is lower for all of us. This means we can get back to more of the things we love to do, like gathering with loved ones.
- Getting vaccinated makes it safer for you personally and for the people you are gathering with.
- We should all be mindful of others and their personal situations, (such as older people and those undergoing cancer treatment) in deciding where to gather.
- Gathering outdoors and keeping a distance comes with a lower level of risk and that's important for many who are more vulnerable.
- Gather in the way you and those you are with are most comfortable with.

17. Do I have to wear a mask if I have 5 people over to my house for a personal gathering?

- If you feel comfortable without a mask when you attend or host a small indoor personal gathering, you don't have to wear one.
- But it's up to you. Everyone will make their own decisions about what they're personally comfortable with as we've done throughout the pandemic.
- Personal gatherings outdoors, and keeping a distance come with a lower level of risk if that's important to you for your personal situation.
- Getting vaccinated is an important part of being safe around other people.
- And everyone needs to follow all public health orders and guidelines – in this case that means your outdoor personal gathering can have up to 10 people, and your indoor visitors can be up to 5 people, or members of one other household.
- Masks are still mandatory in all public indoor settings - like retail stores, schools, workplaces and public transit.

18. Are there bubbles? Does it need to be the same 5 or 10 people for gatherings?

- This is a slow and careful re-start for the province and for people.
- To start you may want to have the same small group and then expand your circle as we progress through the summer.
- Vaccination has significantly lowered the risk – we're in a very different place than we've been previously.
- But we're moving cautiously – there are strict limits on the size of personal gatherings to continue to keep people safe as we re-open.
 - Your outdoor personal gathering can have up to 10 people, and your indoor visitors can be up to 5 people, or members of one other household.

- When the risk is lower in our communities, it is lower for all of us. This means we can get back to more of the things we love to do, like small social gathering with loved ones.

19. Is the six people at a restaurant still your household only?

- No. People can enjoy indoor & outdoor dining in a group of up to 6 people that don't need to be members of their household.
- The PHO orders and safety protocols from before the circuit breaker will continue to be in place at restaurants in Steps 1 and 2 to keep people and workers safe.

20. When can I have a dinner party? How many people?

- Small dinner parties consisting of up to five guests (or one additional household) are now permitted indoors.
- Getting vaccinated is an important part of being safe around other people.
- Guests must also ensure that they are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of illness and have not been exposed to someone with COVID-19, prior to entering your household.
- Remember that people will have different levels of comfort and it is important we continue to be respectful of one another's choices about personal levels of risk.

21. When can I have a backyard BBQ? How many people?

- The same rules apply to backyard BBQs as outdoor personal gatherings.
- You can host a small backyard BBQ, with up to 10 people if everyone remains outdoors or up to 5 guests or one other household if people will be indoors during any part of the gathering.
- Guests must ensure that they are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of illness and have not been exposed to COVID-19 prior to coming over.

22. Dr. Tam suggested no indoor personal gatherings until the fall. Why are you doing this now?

- British Columbians have pulled together over these past weeks and throughout this entire pandemic, to follow public health orders and keep one another safe.
- Thanks to their efforts, and with more people vaccinated every day, here in B.C. we're ready to begin carefully re-opening.
- Every jurisdiction is going to move at their own pace.
- With declining case counts, declining hospitalizations, and a steady vaccine supply, we're in a good position to begin carefully re-opening here in B.C.
- With more and more people getting vaccinated every day, we can gradually restart our social lives, businesses, and activities.

- We do need to recognize there is still some risk with the virus still circulating so this means we need to start small and keep other measures in place – not everyone will be comfortable with gathering indoors right away.

23. Why are masks and distancing required at organized gatherings, but not personal gatherings in Steps 1 and 2?

- We all need to take individual responsibility to lower risks for ourselves and the people around us.
- In personal gatherings people know each other so they can better assess the risks and determine what measures should be in place.
- For example, if you're meeting a friend who's undergoing cancer treatment, you know it's safer to meet outdoors and wear a mask.
- For organized gatherings people usually do not know all the attendees so extra safety measures are a good idea, especially early in the restart.

ORGANIZED GATHERINGS

24. What's the difference between a personal and an organized gathering?

- A personal gathering is having a small number of people into your house or in your backyard or at a park
- These are your close friends and family and you will need to continue to be careful to keep each other safe. This means staying away if you are not well or have been exposed to COVID-19.
- An organized gathering like a wedding or a concert brings people together from many different households and therefore has a higher risk.
- The organizer of these gatherings must have a covid safety plan to make sure these types of gatherings can continue to be safe while we still have COVID-19 transmission in our province.

25. Are masks and distancing required at indoor organized gatherings in Step 1 and 2?

- As laid out in the Gathering and Events Order, if an event has seating at tables, each table must have a maximum of six people.
- Organizers must ensure that the venue has sufficient space for people to maintain physical distancing from others who are not part of their own household.
- People will have to wear masks when making their way to their seats, but can remove them when seated – just like people are used to doing at restaurants.

26. Why aren't masks required at outdoor organized gatherings in Step 1 and 2?

- Households will be required to be seated a safe distance from each other, and the organizer will be required to have a COVID safety plan.
- Outdoor environments are much lower risk, and masks have only ever been required in indoor public spaces.
- Of course if someone prefers to wear a mask at an outdoor event, they are welcome to do so.

27. Is distancing required at outdoor organized gatherings in Step 1 and 2?

- Yes. Households will be seated at a safe distance from each other.

28. What safety protocols need to be in place for an indoor organized gathering in Steps 1 and 2? (I.e. what do I need to do to hold one?)

- For 10-person gatherings in Step 1, here are detailed protocols already in place.
- They can be found in the PHO Gatherings and Events order, Part D (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-gatherings-events.pdf>)
- When we move to Step 2, these protocols will be updated to include measures similar to those in place when 50-person gatherings were last allowed.
- This includes things like sufficient space to allow for distancing, no more than six guests per table, ensuring hand sanitation, collecting contact information for all guests.

29. What safety protocols need to be in place for a 50-person outdoor organized gathering in Step 1? (i.e. what do I need to do to hold one?)

- These additional protocols will be detailed in the revised PHO Gatherings and Events Order.
- Guidance will be available on the BCCDC website.

30. Can live theatres and movie theatres open in Step 1?

- Theaters and movie theaters are considered an organized gathering.
- In Step 1, indoor organized gatherings like theatre or movie showings are limited to 10 people seated, and outdoor showings are limited to 50 people seated.
- We anticipate that it will be more practical for many live theatres and movie theatres to re-open in Step 2 when they are able to host 50-person indoor showings, with safety protocols.

31. What is allowed in terms of weddings in each step?

- Weddings are considered an organized gathering – even if they are held at a private residence.
- The same rules for indoor and outdoor organized gatherings in each step, including detailed safety plans, apply to weddings as well.
- People who are not feeling well or have been exposed to COVID-19 should not attend weddings.

32. In what step will mingling and/or dancing be allowed at organized gatherings, including weddings? (i.e. When do we move away from tightly controlled seated events?)

- These kinds of higher risk activities at organized gatherings will likely be permitted in Step 3, as long as indicators continue to look good.
- We will continue to monitor and consult with stakeholders as we update safety protocols ahead of Step 3.

33. Will mass gatherings like big concerts and Canucks/Lions games be at full capacity in the Fall?

- We are optimistic that by Fall we'll be able to safely add significant capacity to mass gatherings.
- Over the coming months we'll be working with the sector on what exactly that will look like in fall – to support events going forward while ensuring the appropriate safety protocols are in place going into the respiratory season.
- We've laid out our plan to provide British Columbians with as much predictability as we can about our path forward.
- But we will be staying flexible, monitoring data, and learning from our restart. The gradual lifting of orders and restrictions will only happen when it is safe to do so.

FAITH GATHERINGS

34. Will the rules for faith gatherings be the same as for organized gatherings in each step (size limits etc.)?

- The Provincial Health Officer has been engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the faith community about opportunities for safe resumption of religious gatherings.
- This dialogue will continue to inform changes in the rules for religious gatherings.
- We are planning to resume indoor worship services with up to 50 people, and with COVID-19 safety plans, in the coming week.
- The safety measures will be similar to those that were in place in the variance to the PHO order before it was suspended by the circuit breaker restrictions.

VACCINATION

35. You've suggested in the past that B.C. would have guidance that allowed people who are vaccinated to do different things, such as see more people than those who aren't vaccinated. Why are the rules the same for everyone here?

- We've seen over the past few months that these vaccines are extremely effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19 and lowering the risk in our communities.
- When the risk is lower in our communities, it is lower for all of us. This means we can get back to more of the things we love to do, like small social gathering with loved ones.
- Everyone will make their own decisions about what they're personally comfortable with as we've done throughout the pandemic.
- People who have gotten a dose of vaccine at least two weeks ago are at much lower risk getting or becoming seriously ill with COVID-19 and that will inform their choices.

36. Should people who are not yet vaccinated be a bit more cautious?

- Yes. Especially if they are around people who may be vulnerable to more severe illness from COVID-19, such as older people, or who may not have as strong an immune response to the vaccine (e.g. people undergoing cancer treatment).
- People should also remember that it takes a few weeks for immunity to develop after you get your shot.
- Everyone should ensure they receive their second dose of vaccine when their time comes.

37. Will proof of vaccination be required to access private or government services?

- No. We need people to get vaccinated so that we can continue to move forward through the steps of our restart plan and get back to the activities we miss.
- That said, it's never been our approach to make vaccines mandatory in B.C. and they will not be required for access to services.
- Vaccines lower the risk in our communities and when the risk is lower in our communities, it is lower for all of us.

38. Will businesses be able to require proof of vaccination from their employees or customers?

- There could be significant legal implications and it is not recommended.
- Vaccines are greatly encouraged to increase protection against COVID 19 and to reduce risk to the public.
- We know they work and are the reason that we can start opening up the province.
- That said, they are not mandatory.

39. How does it encourage vaccination if the rules are the same for everyone?

- We need people to get vaccinated so that we can continue to move forward through the steps of our restart plan and get back to the activities we miss.
- When someone chooses to be vaccinated, they aren't just protecting themselves. They're also protecting their loved ones, and entire communities, from COVID-19.
- We encourage everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it's available to them, and to get their second shot when their time comes.

40. How are we confident vaccines will work against the variants?

- This is something we're watching very closely.
- Right now, we're seeing vaccines give us a high level of protection against all the strains of the virus we're seeing in our communities.
- The advantage of the current types of vaccines is that they can be more easily adapted if necessary.

TRAVEL

41. Why are you maintaining travel restrictions?

- The travel restrictions were implemented separately from the circuit breaker measures.
- Both have worked to help us significantly reduce transmission and get us to the position we are in today where we can begin to relax some restrictions.
- But we have seen how quickly this virus can move from community to community so for the first few weeks, in Step 1, we want people to continue to remain local.
- We are all looking forward to resuming travel, and we will as we move into Step 2 next month.

42. Can I make travel bookings outside of my regional zone for after June 15th?

- In Step 2, the travel restrictions between regional zones will be removed.
- Our target date for Step 2 is June 15, but that depends on reaching our vaccination goals and keeping transmission low.
- People can make travel arrangements for Step 2, however we recommend having flexible bookings for the time between June 15 and the end of June, just to be safe.
- In Step 1, we encourage British Columbians to plan recreational travel within their regional zone – those tourism businesses need your support.

43. Can I travel overnight somewhere and stay with another household in Step 1?

- Yes – recreational travel within your travel zone is permitted in Step 1, including overnight stays with friends and family.
- But we expect people will continue to consider their own personal risk and comfort levels as we re-open, just as we've done over the pandemic.
 - We expect other people to be respectful of that.
- We also need to be considerate of some communities that may not be ready to welcome visitors right now.

44. Can I go camping with another household in Step 1?

- Recreational travel, including camping, within your travel zone is permitted in Step 1.
- Campgrounds need to have COVID safety plans and like with other personal gatherings, camping can be with up to 5 other people or one other household.
- Gatherings in campgrounds will be expected to follow the same rules for outdoor and indoor gatherings in Step 1: (outdoor-10 people, indoor-5 people)
- We expect people will continue to consider their own personal risk and comfort levels as we re-open, just as we've done over the pandemic. We expect other people to be respectful of that.

45. Can I book a vacation rental with another household in Step 1 and 2?

- In the first two steps, the limits on guests at vacation rentals will be the same as in your home.
- Guests will be limited to five additional people, or one additional household.

46. Will there be limits on vacation rentals in Step 3 (i.e. for July and August)?

- No. We expect that limits on vacation rentals will be lifted at the start of Step 3 – the beginning of July.

47. When can I travel recreationally across Canada?

- We're planning for inter-provincial travel in Step 3, starting in July.
- We will continue to monitor metrics and data, and will move to through the steps when public health advises it is safe to do so.
- We're looking forward to welcoming back travellers from across Canada, but only when public health advises us it's safe to do so.

48. When will international travel come back?

- That's up to the federal government – they're responsible for international borders.
- We look forward to welcoming back international tourists when it is safe to do so.
- Our priority is our careful, safe restart and keeping British Columbians healthy and safe.

49. When will the US border reopen to non-essential travel?

- That's up to the federal government – they're responsible for international borders.
- We look forward to welcoming back international tourists when it is safe to do so.
- Our priority is our careful, safe restart and keeping British Columbians healthy and safe.

50. Will international travelers have to provide proof they've been vaccinated? Will rapid tests be used at the border?

- The Province is exploring with the federal government and other provinces what a pan-Canadian approach might look like to issue a COVID-19 health status credentials in the event they are required.
- As part of this, B.C. is exploring how the BC Services Card and mobile card can be integrated into any proposed solution, similar to how the mobile card is integrated with other federal services such as Canada Revenue Agency's My Account.
- The BC Services Card and mobile card are already trusted tools that allow British Columbians timely, secure access to government services.
- Any approach adopted will be built in a way that protects British Columbian's privacy.

51. Are you adjusting highway signs to reflect the updated travel guidance?

- Yes. We are updating highway signs to reflect that recreational travel within your travel zone is now allowed as of today.
- We will continue to update highway signs as we move into each new Step in our restart to ensure that people on the road are aware of the current rules in each step.

52. What if First Nations or local communities want to keep restrictions in place longer / restrict travel to their region?

- It's important to respect the wishes of local communities, and follow local guidelines if you do travel within your travel zone.
- While some communities will be eager to welcome visitors to support their local economy, there are some rural and Indigenous communities that may be more hesitant to welcome visitors.
- We ask anyone who is looking to recreate, including hunting and fishing, to do their research before they leave home, respect the wishes of local communities and follow local travel advisories and guidance.
- The First Nations Health Authority has worked closely with First Nations to support their response throughout the pandemic, and as we roll out our immunization program – this collaboration will continue as we safely reopen.

SOCIAL CONTACT

53. When can I hug someone from outside my household?

- This is a careful, gradual restart for B.C., and for people.
- We encourage people to take a gradual approach to resuming that kind of close contact as we move through these steps.
- Most people will want to hold off on close physical contact with people outside their household until we reach Step 3.
- If both people are vaccinated and transmission in the community is low, the risks of those kind of activities are going to be much lower.
- Ultimately everyone will make their own decisions based on their own personal risk and comfort levels.
- If you're immune compromised or have someone in your household that is, you may want to hold off a bit longer than someone who is in a different situation.

TESTING / OTHER HEALTH CARE

54. Why does your plan show no testing and self-isolation by Step 4 – just “stay home if sick”?

- We will continue to do testing for COVID-19 and if someone is positive, they will need to isolate.
- But as more people become protected through immunization, the risk goes down.
- Individuals will continue to be managed and public health will manage cases and outbreaks as they occur.

55. Will employers be doing more rapid testing?

- Testing and detecting cases of COVID-19 is a vital part of our COVID-19 response.
- Our government's Rapid Point-of-Care Screening Program is now available for organizations throughout the province.
- Industries and organizations whose settings or activities are associated with a higher risk of transmission can email RapidPOCTeam@phsa.ca for an intake assessment.
- BC's Rapid Point-of-Care Testing Strategy released in March, permits wider use in workplaces and settings where there is a higher risk of outbreak and/or transmission including, but not limited to, industrial camps, food processing plants and post-secondary residences.
- This program will continue to be guided by where there is interest and where the tests are most useful.

56. Will you be using your stockpile of rapid tests before they expire this fall?

- B.C.'s Rapid Point-of-Care Screening Program is now available for organizations throughout the province.
- Industries and organizations whose settings or activities are associated with a higher risk of transmission can email RapidPOCTeam@phsa.ca for an intake assessment.

57. When will surgical cancellations end?

- We know there are many people who are eager to know when a surgery they are waiting for will be re-scheduled.
- We have been working very hard on plans to get everyone the surgeries they need.
- We will begin rescheduling surgeries at the end of this month.

KIDS / EDUCATION (K-12)

58. Why isn't K-12 mentioned in your restart plan?

- We already have an established process to determine required health and safety guidelines for schools, working with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the Provincial Steering Committee.
- They are already working on guidelines and an overall plan for September.
- Changes to the K-12 guidelines will be made in consultation with the COVID-19 education steering committee, made up of education staff, administrators, parents, Indigenous rights holders and public health officials.

59. Will anything be changing in schools in Steps 1 and 2 (i.e. in June) as a result of the restart?

- No. Students, education staff, public health officials and parents have been doing an incredible job keeping schools safe throughout this pandemic.
- As in other sectors, the current safety protocols will remain in place for Steps 1 and 2 through to the end of June.
- We are working with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the Provincial Steering Committee to determine required health and safety guidelines and an overall plan for September.
- Any changes to the K-12 guidelines will be made in consultation with the COVID-19 education steering committee, made up of education staff, administrators, parents, Indigenous rights holders and public health officials.

60. What will summer school look like with the transition to Step 3 on July 1?

- Summer school planning is actively underway to ensure appropriate measures are in place.
- Our education steering committee, made up of education staff, administrators, parents, Indigenous rightsholders and public health officials have been meeting to discuss what summer school might look like as we move forward in our restart plan.
- And any changes to the K-12 health and safety guidelines will be made in consultation with the committee.

61. What will back to school in the Fall look like with Step 4 starting on Sept. 7?

- We will continue to work with public health officials as they review what health and safety measures will be necessary in September.
- While we expect students will be learning in more normal conditions in the fall as a result of government's vaccine roll-out, we will continue to follow the advice of the public health officials and provide resources to school districts as needed.
- We are working with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the Provincial Steering Committee to determine required health and safety guidelines and an overall plan for September.
- We expect to release some details of what students, parents, teachers and school staff can expect in September in the coming weeks.
- We will continue to move forward carefully, informed by data and guided by public health advice. The safety of students and education staff is our top priority.

62. When will the mask mandate end in schools?

- As in other sectors, the current safety protocols will remain in place for Steps 1 and 2 through to the end of June, including the current mask mandate in schools.
- Any changes to the K-12 guidelines will be made in consultation with the COVID-19 education steering committee, made up of education staff, administrators, parents, Indigenous rights holders and public health officials.
- In general, our expectation is that masks will continue to be required in all indoor public settings until we reach Step 3.

63. Will there be graduation ceremonies for high school students?

- We know that graduation is an important milestone for young adults but we encourage celebrations to be small, safe, and meaningful.
- We recognize that this is not the graduation students and families had hoped for.
- We have worked with the BCCDC and our education steering committee to develop guidelines and safe options for grad ceremonies that will give students long-lasting memories of graduating during a global pandemic.
- A number of grad ceremonies have already happened, and many more will be underway very soon that will be based on the existing guidelines.
- Some suggestions for graduates include outdoor or drive thru ceremonies, livestreaming or recording the small service so families can watch in a safe way.

64. Does anything change in a childcare setting in Steps 1 and 2?

- No. Childcare settings will continue to look the same in Steps 1 and 2 with the same safety protocols will in place.
- As with other sectors, we'll be working with them and WorkSafe BC on updated COVID-19 Safety Plans for Step 3.

65. How does the restart affect day camps?

- Day camps are currently operating. They'll continue to look the same in Steps 1 and 2 with the same safety protocols will in place.
- As with other sectors, we'll be working with them and WorkSafe BC on updated day camp COVID-19 Safety Plans for Step 3.
- At every step we're going to ensure the right safety measures are in place to keep people safe.

66. Will overnight camps be allowed in any of these steps?

- Work has been on-going with that sector for some time.
- We want to resume overnight camps as soon as we can, but many of these camps are located in remote areas so there are some specific considerations we need to work through.
- We'll have more to say as soon as we can.

POST-SECONDARY

67. Does anything change for post-secondary between now and the Fall as a result of the Restart?

- No. On March 8, 2021 Dr. Henry advised the presidents of all public colleges and universities to prepare for a full return to on-campus education this September.
- That planning process is already underway - guided by the same evidence that's supporting our careful restart.
- Public health is working closely with the sector to update the post-secondary institution go forward guidelines – a primer to assist in planning for the fall has been released and new go forward guidelines are expected soon.
- That said, the Restart plan does give people an idea of how that safe return to campus fits into where we expect to be as a province in the Fall.

TRANSPORTATION

68. Will the ferries be increasing sailings to accommodate increased travel, since their capacity restrictions won't be lifted when provincial travel restrictions are lifted?

- As restrictions are lifted and travel within the province increases, we expect that BC Ferries will adjust their sailings and capacity accordingly.
- But for now, in Step 1, travel is restricted to within an individual's health region or travel zone.

69. Will masks still be required on BC Ferries, since maintaining distance won't be possible once capacity restrictions are lifted?

- BC Ferries is under the jurisdiction of Transport Canada with respect to safety protocols.
- But masks will continue to be required in indoor public settings until Step 3. This would include public transportation like ferries.

70. Will masks be required on motor coaches for those who aren't vaccinated once capacity restrictions are lifted?

- Updated safety plans will be developed in advance of restrictions being lifted.
- Our expectation is that masks will continue to be required in indoor public settings until we reach Step 3. This would include public transportation like motor coaches.

71. Buses and skytrains are going to get very full as people go back to school and work.

Will masks continue to be mandatory on public transit to keep people feeling comfortable in those tight spaces to encourage continued use of transit?

- We expect that masks will continue to be required in indoor public settings until we move into Step 3.
- This would include public transportation like buses and SkyTrain.
- Updated safety plans will be developed in advance of restrictions being lifted.

72. When will BC Ferries be able to increase capacity?

- As travel restrictions are lifted in our phased approach, BC Ferries will adjust their sailings to seasonal travel accordingly.
- We anticipate that this will occur gradually as we resume recreational travel within the province in Step 2 and Canadian recreational travel in Step 3.

73. When will more riders be able to take transit?

- As travel restrictions are lifted in our phased approach, capacity on buses will continue to be determined by public health guidance to ensure the safety of passengers.
- As we gradually reopen, we will work with transit operators to ensure sufficient capacity is available with appropriate safety measures.

ENFORCEMENT

74. How are you going to prevent large crowds of people from gathering / partying?

- Our restart plan is focused on bringing us back together carefully and gradually.
- In Steps 1 and 2, there are still enforceable orders restricting the size of personal gatherings.
- People who don't follow public health orders could still be fined or charged.
- We expect everyone will keep working together by following the public health orders that remain in place, so we can get back to our social lives, businesses, and activities.

SPORTS

75. What is a "local" sports game?

- Travel for sports will be consistent with provincial restrictions on travel.
- Public health will continue to work with representatives from sports associations and ViaSport to update safe reopening sports guidelines with more details.
- Restrictions on sports will be lifted in a careful and gradual way as part of the restart plan.

76. What about [x detail] on sports?

- Our plan lays out an overall plan for a careful return to games, and outdoor and indoor spectators.
- Public health will continue to work with representatives from sports associations and ViaSport to update safe reopening sports guidelines with more details.

77. What safety plans are needed if a sports team wants to hold a local outdoor game tomorrow?

- The ViaSport Return to Play plan lays out advice for safe competition.
- We will be working with ViaSport and sector associations in the days ahead to ensure they have the support and information they need.

78. Will new guidance be coming around outdoor spectators for sports games in Step 2?

- The ViaSport Return to Play plan lays out advice around how to safely have things like spectators.
- We will be working with ViaSport and sector associations to ensure they have the support and information they need to gradually return to spectators – starting with up to 50 outdoor spectators in Step 2.

BUSINESSES

79. What's the process for updating businesses' COVID-19 Safety Plans?

- In Step 1 and Step 2 businesses will be operating under the safety protocols already in place – the same way we successfully operated under in the fall and winter.
- Government will work with sector associations, WorkSafeBC and public health professionals to develop updated sector safety guidelines for the move to Step 3.
- Businesses will be required to update their own COVID-19 Safety Plan for Step 3 based on the new sector guidelines.

80. What are the safety protocols for businesses reopening/operating in Step 1 and 2?

- In Step 1 and Step 2 businesses will be operating under the safety protocols already in place – the same way we successfully operated under in the fall and winter.
- Each business was responsible for developing their COVID-19 Safety Plan under the sector specific guidelines released by WorkSafeBC and those will remain in place until they are updated as we enter Step 3.
- WorkSafeBC will continue to monitor and ensure compliance under PHO guidance.

- Businesses have done an incredible job but it's critically important that we all follow the public health orders so we can move forward into the next steps of reopening.

81. How will business safety protocols change in Step 3 and 4?

- In the same way the sector specific guidelines were first developed – in close consultation with representatives from those sectors, public health and WorkSafe BC – updated guidelines for Step 3 and Step 4 will be developed by working with those directly impacted.
- This will inform how businesses will be able to increase capacity and decrease physical and administrative controls where appropriate.
- These updated guidelines will ensure the right safety measures are in place as operations increase.
- Consultations on updates to sector specific guidelines will begin shortly so that businesses have enough time to update Safety Plans for Step 3.

82. Will businesses be able to access information on what is allowed in different languages?

- In Steps 1 and 2, businesses will continue to operate under PHO orders and WorkSafeBC guidance as many have been doing so for over a year now.
- These are available in a wide range of languages through the WorkSafeBC and BCCDC websites.
- As updated guidance for Step 3 is developed, we will ensure businesses will have access to the information in a range of languages.

83. What will stop businesses from skipping steps and reopening too quickly?

- Businesses in B.C. know how to operate safely under current PHO orders and WorkSafeBC guidance as many have been doing so for over a year now.
- Those orders and guidance will remain in place until it is safe to move into Step 3.
- Until then WorkSafeBC and the PHO will continue to monitor and ensure businesses are operating safely.
- We can help move into the next steps by encouraging everyone to get vaccinated and by following the public health guidance currently in place.

84. How will workplaces ending work from home policies deal with all those workers back in the workplace and still maintain physical distancing?

- This is a careful and gradual return to the workplace over the course of B.C.'s restart plan.
- Workplaces should consult their COVID-19 safety plans to determine the maximum number of workers who can be in the same location while maintaining safety protocols.
- If a business can operate with a full complement of staff under their COVID-19 Safety Plan then they can begin to gradually bring their workers back.
- Other businesses may only be able to accommodate some of the employees returning to the workplace until sector specific guidelines are updated when it's safe to move into Step 3.

85. What financial supports will be in place to help businesses get back on their feet?

- The provincial and federal governments have implemented several support programs to help hard-hit businesses during this pandemic.
- Many of these programs (such as the wage subsidy and commercial rent support) will not end abruptly but instead will begin to phase out as they're less needed.
- Other programs such as B.C.'s Paid Sick Leave program that supports workers and businesses will remain in place until we've put the pandemic behind us.

86. Why did you create confusion by allowing restaurants to reopen Tuesday morning before the new rules were announced?

- The Circuit Breaker restrictions were always intended to be a temporary measure until we could reduce transmission and increase vaccination.
- Last Thursday, we communicated clearly that the Circuit Breaker would be coming to an end at midnight on Monday, May 24.
- Businesses are now able to operate under PHO orders as they have been doing so before the Circuit Breaker was brought in.

87. When will dancing and loud music be allowed at bars?

- Details on reopening these activities will depend on what monitoring of COVID-19 indicators shows, and consultation with the industry.
- We anticipate any changes for these sorts of activities would only take place as we move into Step 3.
- This would be detailed in updated guidance developed in consultation with the sector. This guidance will inform updated COVID safety plans for bars.

88. If the numbers begin to climb will businesses be shut down again?

- British Columbians have come together to bend the curve and bend back the third wave.
- I'm confident that if people keep coming out to get their vaccination and we keep following public health guidelines, that we will be able to continue moving forward.
- This Restart Plan will happen slowly and gradually and public health officials will watch and make sure the province is not seeing a resurgence of COVID-19.
- As with every other point during the pandemic, measures will depend on the details of the situation and will be tailored to be appropriate to the particulars of the situation.

89. Why does this plan not include a full return of the tourism sector?

- The reopening of international borders is the responsibility of the federal government.
- We look forward to welcoming back international travelers when it is safe to do so.
- Our priority is our careful, safe restart and keeping British Columbians healthy and safe.

90. Will you provide additional support for operators who depend on international travel?

- From the outset of this pandemic we have responded to the changing needs of businesses, with a special focus on tourism operators who haven't had an international visitor for 14 months.
- We are excited that in Step 2, tourism operators will welcome guests from across British Columbia and in Step 3, they will welcome Canadians from other provinces – this will provide a much needed boost for the tourism sector.
- We have made it clear to people and businesses we will be there to support them until we put this pandemic behind us.
- The support measures in place for businesses will not abruptly end.
- We will get through this together and build a strong recovery that includes everyone.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

91. Are we headed for a labour shortage as the economy fully reopens?

- Since the outset of this pandemic, we've been focused on the people whose incomes have been impacted or those who've lost their jobs.
- While B.C. has one of the strongest job recovery rates in Canada, there are still thousands of workers who have yet to fully recover.
- Looking forward, experts agree B.C.'s economy is positioned for a strong recovery.
- Our economy will always depend on a growing skilled labour force which is why we've invested heavily in skills training so we can build a strong recovery for everyone.

92. Is there a risk of businesses failing as soon as government takes away support measures?

- We've made it clear that we will be there for people and businesses until the pandemic is behind us.
- There are several support measures put in place by the provincial and federal governments.
- Many of these programs (such as the wage subsidy and commercial rent support) will not end abruptly but instead will begin to phase out as they're less needed to keep businesses afloat.
- Other programs such as B.C.'s Paid Sick Leave program that supports workers and businesses will remain in place until we've put the pandemic behind us.

OTHER

93. When can things like overdose prevention sites and homeless shelters go back to operating at full capacity?

- Overdose prevention sites have not been impeded from operating at full capacity once measures to ensure reduce COVID-19 risk were in place.
- Shelters can start returning to full capacity as they feel they are ready to manage additional people.
- Supporting their clients to be fully vaccinated will be an important activity.

Fwd: DMC on COVID materials - Mon, Aug 16

From: Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
To: Anderson, Lisa R PSSG:EX <Lisa.R.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>, Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sawatsky, Kim LCRB:EX <Kim.Sawatsky@gov.bc.ca>, Morrison, Tessa PSSG:EX <Tessa.Morrison@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 13, 2021 8:00:41 PM PDT
Attachments: DMC.COVID Agenda Aug 16.21.pdf, Proof of Vax business support slide (002).pdf, Managing Covid_19_ (002).pdf

Good evening,
Please see updated agenda and materials for Monday's 8am.
Thank you
Nikki

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX" <Amanda.Shortt@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 13, 2021 at 6:15:14 PM PDT
To: "Lemmer, Nicola I AEST:EX" <Nicola.Lemmer@gov.bc.ca>, "Bond, Allison MCF:EX" <Allison.Bond@gov.bc.ca>, "Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX" <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, "Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX" <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>, "Brouwer, Shauna CITZ:EX" <Shauna.Brouwer@gov.bc.ca>, "Girn, Naveen PREM:EX" <Naveen.Girn@gov.bc.ca>, "Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX" <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>, "Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX" <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>, "Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX" <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>, "Massey, Christine MMHA:EX" <Christine.Massey@gov.bc.ca>, "Mayhew, Neilane TACS:EX" <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>, "Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX" <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>, "Plecas, Bobbi JERI:EX" <Bobbi.Plecas@gov.bc.ca>, "Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX" <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>, "Sadler, Bobbi PSA:EX" <Bobbi.Sadler@gov.bc.ca>, "Sieben, Mark PSSG:EX" <Mark.Sieben@gov.bc.ca>, "Wood, Heather FIN:EX" <Heather.Wood@gov.bc.ca>, "Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX" <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>, "Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX" <Don.Zadravec@gov.bc.ca>, "MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX" <D.Scott.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>, "Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX" <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>, "Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX" <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>, "PREM Tech Room Vic PREM:EX" <PremTechRoomVic@gov.bc.ca>, "Anderson, Lisa R PSSG:EX" <Lisa.R.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>, "Hockin, Amber PREM:EX" <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>, "Harvey, James JERI:EX" <James.Harvey@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Berkes, Andrea TACS:EX" <Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca>, "Bernard, Tabitha PREM:EX" <Tabitha.Bernard@gov.bc.ca>, "Carling, Emma EDUC:EX" <Emma.Carling@gov.bc.ca>, "Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX" <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>, "Dawes, Sandra IGRS:EX" <Sandra.Dawes@gov.bc.ca>, "Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX" <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>, "Faust, Marnie L GCPE:EX" <Marnie.Faust@gov.bc.ca>, "Francis, Darren IGRS:EX" <Darren.Francis@gov.bc.ca>, "Fraser, Agnes EMBC:EX" <Agnes.Fraser@gov.bc.ca>, "Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX" <Carlee.Kubisheski@gov.bc.ca>, "Kwan, Shirley LBR:EX" <Shirley.Kwan@gov.bc.ca>, "Marquis, Yvette PREM:EX" <Yvette.Marquis@gov.bc.ca>, "Molyneux, Jennifer CITZ:EX" <Jennifer.Molyneux@gov.bc.ca>, "Mulloy, Eleanor PREM:EX" <Eleanor.Mulloy@gov.bc.ca>, "O'Connor, Lara FIN:EX" <Lara.OConnor@gov.bc.ca>, "Potheary, Meagan JERI:EX" <Meagan.Potheary@gov.bc.ca>, "Roe, Sandra EMBC:EX" <Sandra.Roe@gov.bc.ca>, "Sexton, Jana MCF:EX" <Jana.Sexton@gov.bc.ca>, "Turner, Sara J MMHA:EX" <Sara.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, "Walsh, Sara M HLTH:EX" <Sara.Walsh@gov.bc.ca>, "Wells, Katrina PSA:EX"

<Katrina.Wells@gov.bc.ca>, "Westgate, Rachael IGRS:EX" <Rachael.Westgate@gov.bc.ca>, "Wood, Chelsea TACS:EX" <Chelsea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>, "Hourston, Sveah LBR:EX" <Sveah.Hourston@gov.bc.ca>, "Crisp, Leah HLTH:EX" <Leah.Crisp@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: DMC on COVID materials - Mon, Aug 16

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached the materials for DMC on COVID scheduled for this Monday, August 16th from 8:00 to 9:00am.

Thank you,

Amanda Shortt, Executive Administrative Coordinator

Deputy Minister's Office | Office of the Premier

Room 272 - West Annex, Parliament Buildings

Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Phone: (778) 974-5747

From: Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX

Sent: August 12, 2021 3:43 PM

To: Berkes, Andrea TACS:EX <Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca>; Bernard, Tabitha PREM:EX <Tabitha.Bernard@gov.bc.ca>; Carling, Emma EDUC:EX <Emma.Carling@gov.bc.ca>; Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>; Dawes, Sandra IGRS:EX <Sandra.Dawes@gov.bc.ca>; Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>; Faust, Marnie L GCPE:EX <Marnie.Faust@gov.bc.ca>; Francis, Darren IGRS:EX <Darren.Francis@gov.bc.ca>; Fraser, Agnes EMBC:EX <Agnes.Fraser@gov.bc.ca>; Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX <Carlee.Kubisheski@gov.bc.ca>; Kwan, Shirley LBR:EX <Shirley.Kwan@gov.bc.ca>; Marquis, Yvette PREM:EX <Yvette.Marquis@gov.bc.ca>; Molyneux, Jennifer CITZ:EX <Jennifer.Molyneux@gov.bc.ca>; Mulloy, Eleanor PREM:EX <Eleanor.Mulloy@gov.bc.ca>; O'Connor, Lara FIN:EX <Lara.OConnor@gov.bc.ca>; Potheary, Meagan JERI:EX <Meagan.Potheary@gov.bc.ca>; Roe, Sandra EMBC:EX <Sandra.Roe@gov.bc.ca>; Sexton, Jana MCF:EX <Jana.Sexton@gov.bc.ca>; Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX <Amanda.Shortt@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Sara J MMHA:EX <Sara.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Walsh, Sara M HLTH:EX <Sara.Walsh@gov.bc.ca>; Wells, Katrina PSA:EX <Katrina.Wells@gov.bc.ca>; Westgate, Rachael IGRS:EX <Rachael.Westgate@gov.bc.ca>; Wood, Chelsea TACS:EX <Chelsea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>; Hourston, Sveah LBR:EX <Sveah.Hourston@gov.bc.ca>; Crisp, Leah HLTH:EX <Leah.Crisp@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: DMC on COVID agenda - Mon, Aug 16

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached the agenda for DMC on COVID scheduled for Monday, August 16 from 8:00am-9:00am. Please confirm your executives attendance in Chambers or Teams.

Thank you,

Amanda Shortt

Executive Administrative Coordinator

Deputy Minister's Office | Office of the Premier

Room 272 - West Annex, Parliament Buildings

Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Phone: (778) 974-5747

AGENDA

DM Committee on COVID

August 16: 8AM-9AM

Attendees:

- Lori Wanamaker (Chair)
- Shannon Baskerville (Nicola Lemmer)
- Stephen Brown
- Allison Bond
- Shauna Brouwer
- Silas Brownsey
- Trevor Hughes
- Kaye Krishna
- Scott MacDonald
- Neilane Mayhew
- Christine Massey
- Bobbi Plecas
- Tara Richards
- Bobbi Sadler
- Mark Sieben (Mary Sue Maloughney, Lisa Anderson)
- Heather Wood
- Christina Zacharuk
- Don Zadravec
- Eric Kristianson
- Naveen Girn
- Geoff Meggs
- Amber Hockin

Agenda:

1. Introduction and Territorial Acknowledgement (Lori): 8:00-8:05AM
2. Package for CWG COVID (Stephen): 8:05-8:25AM
3. WSBC Update (Trevor): 8:25 –8:35AM
4. EDUC Update (Scott): 8:35-8:45AM
5. AEST Update (Nicola) 8:45-8:55AM
6. Roundtable (ALL): 8:55-9:00AM

Proof of vaccination – Business community insight

BC Chamber of Commerce <i>Fiona Famulak, President & CEO</i>	Very supportive, members have been discussing need for proof of vaccination. See this as a tool to “navigate the tail of the pandemic more smoothly.” Interest in low-cost solution that is easy to implement, non-mandatory approach for all but largest operations.
BC Business Council <i>Greg D’Avignon, President & CEO</i>	Supportive , venue operators will be keen to have a mandate so that it’s not an individual operator decision. Asks for as much clarity on locations, processes, and applicability as possible to eliminate grey areas.
Cdn Federation of Independent Business <i>Sam Howard, Director, B.C.</i>	CFIB membership survey currently underway – preliminary support for proof of vaccination 63% (80% if alternative is closure/lockdown). Primary concerns are implementation (training/IT/record keeping) and liability risks.
BC Hotel Association <i>Ingrid Jarrett, President & CEO</i>	Strongly supportive of proof of vaccination, membership eager to implement as soon as possible. Indicates ski resorts eager to implement as well.

Proof of vaccination – Business community insight

Vancouver Canucks <i>Trent Carroll, COO</i>	Management fully supportive – both of vaccine passport and required use in certain circumstances. Public statement Aug 12 th that the team is “exploring the possibility of requiring proof of vaccination”.
BC Restaurant & Foodservices Assn. <i>Ian Tostenson, President & CEO</i>	“100% behind it” . Many restaurants already want to require proof of vaccination, but feel they need gov’t support. Wants a mandate for staff too.
s.21	Supportive of mandatory proof of vaccination.
Alliance of Beverage Licensees (ABLE) <i>Geoff Guignard, Executive Director</i>	Majority of members will be supportive , a good path to avoiding further restrictions. Encourage proof of vaccination to be mandatory , and see this as a good incentive to encourage workers to get vaccinated.
Tourism Industry Association of BC <i>Walt Judas, CEO</i>	Very supportive of requiring proof of vaccine. Strong preference for requirement being mandatory.

Page 057 of 141 to/à Page 068 of 141

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12

RE: Covid Committee today

From: Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
To: Hembree, Sara PSSG:EX <Sara.Hembree@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Newton, Sam PSSG:EX <Sam.Newton@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 17, 2021 8:47:21 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg, image004.png, image003.png, image002.png, 622777 SG Bullets Final.docx

Here you go!

From: Hembree, Sara PSSG:EX <Sara.Hembree@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:20 AM

To: Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Newton, Sam PSSG:EX <Sam.Newton@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Covid Committee today

Hey Nikki!

Wondering if the materials are ready for MMF for Covid Committee, I think it was just some bullets?

Thanks!!



Sara Hembree

Administrative Coordinator to the
Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
and Government House Leader
T: 778-974-6049
E: sara.hembree@gov.bc.ca

SG Bullets - Speaking Notes

Re: MMF - COVID Working Group

Cliff: 622777

Branch: Policing and Security Branch

- Controlling access to events and business to only those who are double-vaccinated is not the role of the police. They do not have the authority, capacity or mandate to control access to those businesses, or sporting or concert events who decide to limit customer access on the basis of vaccination status.
- Police resources are properly authorized and focussed on public safety issues such as responding to fires, gang conflict, protests, and the general policing demands that are a priority across the entire province.
- While the government encourages all British Columbians to get the vaccine, it is NOT mandatory: it is not the role of police to demand proof of vaccination status – and turn away those who do not have such proof - to private sector events.
- Businesses and events who choose to institute vaccine-dependent access need to plan how they will manage their requirements when people seek access without being double-vaccinated. Their business response plan may include, for example, training for staff in dealing with these situations or retaining in-house or contracted security. Police are not - and cannot be - the default enforcement tool.
- If some businesses choose to require proof of vaccination, there may be legal and privacy implications when placing controls on access to their place of business; however, this is not, in the first instance, for enforcement by police. If a legitimate reason arises for police to respond to a situation, they will continue to do so and in a priority based on the risks of concurrent calls for service.

Fwd: FYI- SG bullets on enforcement

From: Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>
To: Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 19, 2021 6:02:26 PM PDT
Attachments: Updated SG Bullets Vaccine status final.docx

FYI - let's touch base first thing tomorrow on whether we need to get these to mo and have a quick MMF discussion

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX" <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 19, 2021 at 5:46:17 PM PDT
To: "Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX" <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FYI- SG bullets on enforcement

FYI- sharing our internal bullets s.12

from PHO.

Mary Sue Maloughney

Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager

Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government of British Columbia

Phone: 778-698-9086 Email: MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca

Let me know if you get any new info

UPDATED SG Bullets

Re: Enforcement of vaccination requirements

The Existing Law and the Role of the Police

- Controlling access to events and business to only those who are double-vaccinated is not the role of the police. They do not have the authority, capacity or mandate to control access to those businesses, or sporting or concert events who decide to limit customer access on the basis of vaccination status.
- Police resources are properly authorized and focussed on public safety issues such as responding to fires, gang conflict, protests, and the general policing demands that are a priority across the entire province.
- While the government encourages all British Columbians to get the vaccine, it is NOT mandatory: it is not the role of police to demand proof of vaccination status – and turn away those who do not have such proof - to private sector events.
- Businesses and events who choose to institute vaccine-dependent access need to plan how they will manage their requirements when people seek access without being double-vaccinated. Their business response plan may include, for example, training for staff in dealing with these situations or retaining in-house or contracted security. Police are not - and cannot be - the default enforcement tool.
- If some businesses choose to require proof of vaccination, there may be legal and privacy implications when placing controls on access to their place of business; however, this is not, in the first instance, for enforcement by police. If a legitimate reason arises for police to respond to a situation, they will continue to do so and in a priority based on the risks of concurrent calls for service.

Implementing Vaccine Requirements – high risk non-essential venues

Legal considerations

- A requirement to provide proof of vaccination in order to attend specific higher risk for exposure non-essential activities/events would need to be done by the Medical Health Officer (MHO) or Provincial Health Officer (PHO) under the Public Health Act. Such a requirement would need to be considered by the MHO or PHO as necessary to protect public health and could not be made by the Solicitor General.
- Legal advice should be sought generally and specifically to determine if it is permissible to have operators of events or law enforcement requiring individuals to provide proof of vaccination status.

COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA)

- On advice of the PHO, it was determined that the *Protective Measures Order* would continue to have effect after the state of emergency ended in order to provide for ongoing enforcement of PHO orders (i.e. Gatherings and Events and Liquor Serving Premises Order).

- To that end, the *Protective Measures* Order was enacted as a CRMA provision by way of regulation order with an expiry date of December 31, 2021.
- Through the Protective Measures Order individuals could be required to show proof of vaccination to attend gatherings and events like night clubs and major sporting events under the Protective Measures (COVID-19) Order No. 2. The initial concept would be to require that events require proof of vaccination as a condition of operation and that individuals not attend these events unless they are able to provide proof.
- This would require the Provincial Health Officer to amend the Food and Liquor Serving Premises Order and/or the Gatherings and Events Order to introduce new requirements regarding proof of vaccination.
- The Provincial Health Officer would need to consider such an order necessary to protect public health
- While police would be authorized to issue violation tickets they are not - and cannot be - the default enforcement tool.
 - Police resources are properly authorized and focussed on public safety issues such as responding to fires, gang conflict, protests, and the general policing demands that are a priority across the entire province.
- s.13
-
-

Emergency Program Act (EPA)

- The EPA is not a tool that can be used. The state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic expired on July 1, 2021. Without a related state of emergency there is no authority to make emergency orders.

Executive Message from Lori Wanamaker: COVID-19 Update

From: Executive Update PSA:EX <ExecutiveUpdate@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 24, 2021 2:05:10 PM PDT
Attachments: image003.png, image001.png, image005.png, image006.png, image004.png,
image004.png

LORI WANAMAKER

Deputy Minister to the Premier,
Cabinet Secretary and
Head of the BC Public Service



COVID-19 Update

Good afternoon,

In the last two days, government has provided updates for British Columbians on some important next steps in B.C.'s pandemic response. As always, we have assessed the impact these steps have on BC Public Service workplaces.

The requirement for proof of vaccination announced Monday will apply in certain social and recreational settings and events. It does not, however, apply in BC Public Service workplaces at this time. We have appropriate safety measures in place, including for workplaces in the Interior Health region where measures are aligned to the most recent public health orders. The Public Service Agency continues to work with ministries to ensure our workplaces remain safe, and we will continue to adapt our approach consistent with public health advice or where any unique risks may be identified.

Today, the Provincial Health Officer announced she is reinstating mandatory mask use in public indoor settings province-wide. In the Interior Health region, masks are mandatory in all workplaces consistent with recent health orders. Everywhere else in the province, masks are now required in areas of office buildings where services to the public are provided and remain recommended in other workplaces.

Considering the recent increase in COVID-19 cases and the potential delay in the transition to Step 4 of B.C.'s Restart Plan, we have decided to postpone the implementation of our flexible work approach at this time. If you wish to continue working remotely longer-term, you are still required to have an approved telework agreement in place by September 7. However, we will not expect the schedules set out in those telework agreements to apply until October 12, after the Thanksgiving long weekend.

The [Flexible Work FAQ](#) has been updated on MyHR to reflect these changes. The Public Service Agency will update the COVID-19 FAQ with information to reflect these changes shortly. We will continue to assess our plans in the context of the pandemic over the weeks ahead and communicate any further changes as needed. But for now, this means if you are currently working remotely you can continue to do so until at least October 12. However, as has been the case throughout the summer, if you wish to return to your regular workplace in the interim you are encouraged and supported to do so. Those who need to or choose to be in our workplaces can rest assured they remain safe.

We have a very high vaccination rate across B.C. that continues to improve each day, with approximately three-quarters of eligible British Columbians now having received their second dose. Vaccines remain our best defense against COVID-19. If you are among those who have not yet been vaccinated, I strongly encourage you to do so if you are able. It is easy, it is safe and it is one important step we can take that will literally save lives in our communities.

I know the pandemic continues to be a concern for all of us, personally and professionally. My thanks to all of you for your continued professionalism in the face of this ongoing challenge – and thanks also to those of you who are protecting yourselves and your communities by getting vaccinated. We will get through this by continuing to work together, and by being kind, being calm and being safe.

Sincerely,

Lori Wanamaker

Deputy Minister to the Premier,

Cabinet Secretary and Head of the BC Public Service



Where ideas work

We acknowledge with respect that the BC Public Service operates throughout B.C. on the traditional lands of Indigenous

peoples. The BC Public Service is deeply committed to true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in B.C.

Please note: replies to this email will go to Employee News, and will be forwarded to the relevant executive members as appropriate.

Re: ADM Table for Vaccine Card (Passport) Implementation Discussion

From: Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 25, 2021 6:47:30 AM PDT

No - I agree. Nikki can you send Mary the latest bullets that went to MO on vaccines and enforcement.

On Aug 25, 2021, at 6:06 AM, Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Great. I don't see us having a large role in passports.
Thx

Wayne Rideout
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Telephone: 250-387-1100
Cellular: 250-508-1209
Email: wayne.rideout@gov.bc.ca

On Aug 24, 2021, at 7:28 PM, Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX
<MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Given your load, I was thinking of giving this to Mary Shaw and then she can reach out to Jaime directly as needed as well as cover other corporate needs on this one. Thoughts?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Barclay, Corrie A HLTH:EX" <Corrie.Barclay@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 24, 2021 at 6:08:17 PM PDT
To: "Mayhew, Neilane TACS:EX" <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>, "Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX" <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>, "Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX" <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>, "Baskerville, Shannon AEST:EX" <Shannon.Baskerville@gov.bc.ca>, "Melles, Jennifer IRR:EX" <Jennifer.Melles@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX" <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, "Somner, Kurstie HLTH:EX" <Kurstie.Somner@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: ADM Table for Vaccine Card (Passport) Implementation Discussion

Good afternoon,
As you are aware the province is moving forward to implement a Vaccine Card (Passport) to support the requirement to show proof of vaccination status before entering into certain business' and events. To support the

implementation of this measure Stephen has asked that I pull together an ADM table to meet on Thursday to start and discuss implementation approach and inform communication materials and any issues that we need to address to ensure a smooth implementation.

Can you please provide me with the name of your ADM to be included at this table.

Regards,

Corrie

Corrie Barclay

ADM, Health Sector IMIT Divison

Ministry of Health, Province of British Columbia

M: 1.250.893.0358

FW: COVID-19 Updates: FAQs, Mask Order, Interior Health/Okanagan Measures

From: Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
To: Limb, Alice PSSG:EX <Alice.Limb@gov.bc.ca>, Alagaratanam, Suhan Kumar AG:EX <SuhanKumar.Alagaratanam@gov.bc.ca>, Hahn, Andra PSSG:EX <Andra.Hahn@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Engelbrecht, Maya AG:EX <Maya.Engelbrecht@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 25, 2021 11:43:06 AM PDT

More info on Masks. I'm assuming that Shariyar will be in charge of signage. In terms of comms, I'm not really sure what needs to be done for the 10ish people that are on the floor.

From: McKeown, Kayla AG:EX <Kayla.McKeown@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:10 AM
To: AG PSSG SHRGC <AGPSSG.SHRGC@gov.bc.ca>; AG PSSG SHR HRWG <AGPSSG.SHRHRWG@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Nesdoly, Darcy AG:EX <Darcy.Nesdoly@gov.bc.ca>; Gillis, Heather AG:EX <Heather.Gillis@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: COVID-19 Updates: FAQs, Mask Order, Interior Health/Okanagan Measures

Good morning everyone,

With the recent executive message from Lori Wanamaker as well as with further directions from the PHO, please see revised information on the mask orders as well as updated FAQs. Please note that the materials are all updated on the myHR site and links are included below. There are separate PHO orders and measures for the Central Okanagan BC Public Service Workplace COVID-19 Measures for the Central Okanagan (PDF, 229KB)

Workplace Mask Order

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/careers/about-the-bc-public-service/bc_public_service_covid19_workplace_mask_order.pdf

Updated FAQs

[BC Public Service COVID-19 Response FAQs \(PDF, 129KB\)](#) **Updated: August 24, 2021**

Specific to Mask Mandate -> 14. Are masks required in BC Public Service workplaces for clients or the public?

[UPDATED] On August 20, 2021, a Medical Health Officer order was issued for all areas of Interior Health Region. This order applies to all individuals, including in workplaces. Masks are to be worn by individuals in BC Public Service workplaces in the Interior Health region, except when working at their own workstation. On August 24, the Provincial Health Officer announced an order for mandatory mask wearing for all individuals 12 years and older, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor public spaces. This order extends to areas of workplaces where services are provided to the public/clients. BC Public Service workplaces are equipped with client-facing signs to display directions aligned with local public health orders. Workplaces should maintain a supply of non-medical masks to provide to clients if requested. In BC Public Service workplaces, where not a public health requirement, mask wearing is also personal choice. Employees can manage their risk and the risk to those around them by wearing masks. Ministries provide essential services to the public they cannot receive anywhere else. Efforts have been made to shift to virtual service or other types of services to limit contacts where possible. Clients will not be denied service on the basis of mask wearing or vaccination status. With high levels of vaccine participation in B.C. and other controls available such as physical barriers, asking clients for proof of vaccination status is not necessary. The most effective protection from COVID-19 transmission in the workplace is physical distancing or physical barriers between individuals. Barriers and physical distancing also allow protection for workers to serve clients who are unable to wear masks or where masks may interrupt communication. Employees should speak with their supervisor about their ministry's procedures to support client mask-wearing and the ministry procedures to manage unmasked clients seeking services.

Public spaces will include common areas such as stairwells, washrooms, lobbies, boardrooms, elevators, etc. Inside individual office suites mask usage is recommended.

Signage in common areas will be updated by our facilities contacts who will be advised of further direction from CMSB Facilities group.

Communications will be branch specific as you review this workplace mask order that offers you the ability to update to your needs.

If you have other questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out at any time.

Thank you!

From: Grindler, Lauren PSA:EX <Lauren.Grindler@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:03 PM

To: PSA HR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL <s.17

>

Subject: COVID-19 Updates: FAQs, Mask Order, Interior Health/Okanagan Measures

Good afternoon,

A few documents on MyHR have been updated to reflect the latest announcements from the Provincial Health Officer regarding mask wearing, proof of vaccine requirements and measures for the Central Okanagan and Interior Health regions.

- BC Public Service COVID-19 Response FAQs – updated questions are indicated with [UPDATED]
- BC Public Service COVID-19 Workplace Mask Order – a new document to reflect the new mask order
- Public Service Workplace COVID-19 Measures for the Central Okanagan – no changes to measures, but some language updated to clarify procedures
- Public Service Workplace COVID-19 Measures for Interior Health - no changes to measures, but some language updated to clarify procedures

All of these documents are available on the [COVID-19 information for BC Public Service employees page](#). You may need to clear your browser cache to see the latest versions.

Best,

Lauren Grindler, Crisis Communications Officer/Communications Strategist

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Public Service Engagement and Corporate Initiatives | BC Public Service Agency

563 Superior St. | Victoria, BC | V8V 1T7 | P: 778-698-4317 | C: 250-588-3126

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Withheld pursuant to/removal as

NR

Question re: mandatory vaccine for attending public events

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>, Emerson, Brian P
HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Smillie, Brittany HLTH:EX <Brittany.Smillie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 12, 2021 2:11:57 PM PDT

Good afternoon Brian,

s.22 . I've been asked to provide some bullets to our Minister in preparation for a Cabinet meeting next Tuesday re: COVID-19.

The question being asked is about mandatory vaccinations to attend events (i.e. concerts, sporting events, etc.). Do you have any information you're able to share for context and/or background? I think any information we can share around conversations to date would be very helpful. I suppose there is a distinction between "access control" and "enforcement".

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

Director, Public Safety Initiatives

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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FW: Q re: mandatory vaccines

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>, Barker, Amy PSSG:EX <Amy.Barker@gov.bc.ca>, Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>, Windsor, Devon PSSG:EX <Devon.Windsor@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 12, 2021 2:50:25 PM PDT

FYI. I was asked to pull together some bullets for a pre-brief with the Minister ahead of the Tuesday Cabinet meeting specific to mandatory masks to attend sporting events, etc. Will use some of the information to inform this.

Matt Brown
Director, Public Safety Initiatives
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: Latham, Hope GCPE:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 2:39 PM
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX <Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Q re: mandatory vaccines

Hey Matt,

Just got this back from COVID comms, see highlight. s.13
s.13

Sorry I can't be of more help!

Hope Latham
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
778 698-5698

From: Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 12, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Latham, Hope GCPE:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX <Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca>; Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Q re: mandatory vaccines

Hi Hope,

You are correct – the only mandatory vaccination required by the PHO were the measures announced today for long-term care.

Dr. Henry was asked about sporting events requiring proof of vaccination in today's avail.

I've included some messaging below on businesses requiring masks/proof of vaccine:

Here in B.C., the message to businesses and guidance from public health is clear:

- Businesses with communicable disease plans in place can reopen (with some targeted measures for restaurants, nightclubs and casinos).
- Businesses are free to set their own rules for the wearing of masks on their premises.

The Province has worked hard throughout the pandemic to support businesses and workers so that businesses can stay open while keeping people safe.

Right now, the public health guidance to businesses is to focus first and foremost on the fundamental measures of communicable disease prevention at the workplace, including using the appropriate layers of protection like handwashing and personal hygiene practices, ventilation, and staying home if people are sick or not feeling well.

Here is additional KMs on proof of vaccination/ vaccine passport:

- It's important to remember that vaccination status is personal health information, and COVID-19 immunization is a personal choice.
- The province is currently seeing waves of COVID-19 cases in people who are not fully vaccinated.
- The best way for people to protect themselves and their loved ones is to receive their first and second dose of COVID-19 vaccines.
- While we are seeing high rates of vaccination in B.C. and encourage everyone to get the vaccine –it is not mandatory and there will be no recommendation that businesses ask for proof of vaccination.
- If businesses choose to require proof of vaccination, there are legal and privacy implications that they should consider.
- People in B.C. do not need a proof-of-vaccination certificate to access government supports, programs or services

Leah

From: Latham, Hope GCPE:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 12, 2021 2:23 PM
To: Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX <Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Q re: mandatory vaccines

Hey there!

Minister Farnworth is attending COVID working group meeting on Tuesday, we are anticipating there may be potential discussion regarding mandatory vaccinations to attend events (eg. concerts, sporting events, etc) and other locations and the question of enforcement may arise.

We're drafting some SNs and hoping to differentiate between access control and enforcement.

PSB has asked if there is anything mandatory for sporting events, etc. that we're aware of. I'm not sure so wondering if you have any information?

The only place I've heard it being mandatory by PHO is the long term care as per the announcement today.

I did see that the Harbour Cats are making it mandatory for their staff and players, but still deciding about the attendees: <https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/victoria-harbourcats-nanaimo-nightowls-to-require-covid-19-vaccinations-for-all-players-and-staff-1.5543223>

And Phillips is having their backyarder and need to show proof of vaccine:
<https://www.victoriabuzz.com/2021/08/phillips-brewing-is-bringing-back-their-popular-backyard-events-this-september/>

Feel free to ring if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Hope Latham
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
778 698-5698

RE: Bullet SNs - MMF - COVID Working Group

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: Kiewiet, Nargis PSSG:EX <Nargis.Kiewiet@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 12, 2021 3:26:54 PM PDT

Hi Nargis,

I have reached out to the Deputy Provincial Health Officer for any additional background but in the interim, have pulled together the following information informed by key messages from Dr. Bonnie Henry's press conference today. Here you go with a cc to Glen:

- The province has worked hard throughout the pandemic to support businesses and workers so that businesses can stay open and keep people safe.
- Police officers in BC do not have the authority, nor are they required to enforce the decisions made by businesses who choose to ask for proof of vaccination before allowing entry of individuals into businesses including sporting events, concerts, etc.
- Public health guidance to business is to focus on the fundamental measures of communicable disease prevention which includes using appropriate layers of protection such as hand washing and personal hygiene practises, and staying home if people are sick or not feeling well.
- While the government encourages all British Columbians to get the vaccine, it is NOT mandatory and public health has advised that there will be no recommendation that businesses ask for proof of vaccination for individuals to access a business including a sport event, concert, etc.
- If businesses choose to require proof of vaccination, there may be legal and privacy implications when placing controls on access to their place of business; however, this is not a matter for enforcement by police.

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

Director, Public Safety Initiatives

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: Kiewiet, Nargis PSSG:EX <Nargis.Kiewiet@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 1:48 PM

To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Bullet SNs - MMF - COVID Working Group

Hi Matt,

Please see Nikki's email below. Will you please have bullets SN prepared for MMf.

thank you and sorry for the short notice.

Nargis

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX" <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>

Date: August 12, 2021 at 1:22:28 PM PDT

To: "Kiewiet, Nargis PSSG:EX" <Nargis.Kiewiet@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: "Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX" <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Bullet SNs - MMF - COVID Working Group

Hi Nargis,

MMF is attending COVID working group meeting on Tuesday. There will be discussion regarding mandatory vaccinations to attend events (eg. concerts, sporting events, etc) and other locations and the question of enforcement may arise. For the purposes of that discussion it will be important to

differentiate between access control vs. enforcement. Can you please have someone draft some short SNs in bullet form for MMF to refer to? We will be doing a prebrief with the Minister, where Wayne will be needed, but he is not needed for the actual committee meeting. I'll confirm date/time of the pre-brief shortly.

Thank you!

Nikki

Fwd: Question re: mandatory vaccine for attending public events

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>, Barker, Amy PSSG:EX <Amy.Barker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 13, 2021 8:29:55 AM PDT
FYI.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX" <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 13, 2021 at 8:28:44 AM PDT
To: "Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX" <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: **Re: Question re: mandatory vaccine for attending public events**

Good morning Brian,
Thanks for the update on this. I really appreciate it and we'll wait to see if any changes arise.
Thanks, Matt

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2021, at 7:58 AM, Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Matt.

I do not have any details to share about this issue. I am aware of preliminary conversations happening about this being considered as a method to push vaccination rates to higher levels and bring in added protection for people attending such events, but beyond that I have not been involved in any discussion. Other jurisdictions that have implemented such measure have seen beneficial results in terms of increasing vaccination coverage. I believe the thinking is still at an early stage.

Thanks.

Brian

Dr. Brian P. Emerson, Deputy Provincial Health Officer (acting)
BC Ministry of Health, PO Box 9648 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria,
BC V8W 9P1
T 250.952.1701 s.17 F. 250.952.
1713 brian.emerson@gov.bc.ca

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 12, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>; Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Smillie, Brittany HLTH:EX <Brittany.Smillie@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Question re: mandatory vaccine for attending public events
Importance: High

Good afternoon Brian,

s.22 I've been asked to provide
some bullets to our Minister in preparation for a Cabinet meeting next Tuesday re:
COVID-19.

The question being asked is about mandatory vaccinations to attend events (i.e. concerts, sporting events, etc.). Do you have any information you're able to share for context and/or background? I think any information we can share around conversations to date would be very helpful. I suppose there is a distinction between "access control" and "enforcement".

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown
Director, Public Safety Initiatives
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

SG Bullets Vaccine status

From: Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 19, 2021 4:15:04 PM PDT
Attachments: SG Bullets Vaccine status.docx

Hi Jamie,

Please see draft bullets for the SG on vaccine passports.

It could be slimmed down if need be.

Cheers,

C.

Updated Bullets

From: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 19, 2021 4:42:11 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png, image003.jpg, image002.png, Updated SG Bullets Vaccine status.docx

Hi Wayne,

Please see the revised bullets as requested by the A/DSG today. Thanks to Cole for coordinating this including a quick consult with legal. Note: s.13

s.13 Details are explained in the attached.

Jamie



Jamie Lipp | Executive Director
COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9060 Surrey Stn Main Surrey BC V3T 0N4
office: 604 398-4606 | mobile: 604 306-5617
email: jamie.lipp@gov.bc.ca
web: www.gov.bc.ca/Community-Safety-Unit



Where ideas work



RE: New PHO Order - BC Vaccine Card

From : Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX s.15
To: Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>, Barker, Amy PSSG:EX <Amy.Barker@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 23, 2021 1:53:07 PM PDT

Thanks Amy. We will have to track this over the next days and weeks for specifics on roll-out. So far, I'm not hearing that there is any specific expectation for enforcement by police or prov C&E. Time will tell as further details come together.

Jamie

From: Barker, Amy PSSG:EX <Amy.Barker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 1:43 PM
To: Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>; Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: New PHO Order - BC Vaccine Card

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/covid19-vaccine-update-bc-1.6149947>

BC Vaccine Cards will be implemented Sept. 13 "eligible British Columbians will require proof of one dose of vaccine. By Oct. 24, two doses will be required. The cards will be required for a wide range of recreational and social activities, including indoor ticketed sporting events, indoor and patio dining in restaurants, fitness centres, casinos and indoor organized events, like conferences and weddings."

Amy Barker (*She/Her*)
Research and Policy Analyst
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
P: (236) 478 0813
amy.barker@gov.bc.ca

RE: New PHO Order - BC Vaccine Card

From: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
To: Barker, Amy PSSG:EX <Amy.Barker@gov.bc.ca>, Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 23, 2021 1:53:08 PM PDT

Thanks Amy. We will have to track this over the next days and weeks for specifics on roll-out. So far, I'm not hearing that there is any specific expectation for enforcement by police or prov C&E. Time will tell as further details come together.

Jamie

From: Barker, Amy PSSG:EX <Amy.Barker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 1:43 PM
To: Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>; Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: New PHO Order - BC Vaccine Card

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/covid19-vaccine-update-bc-1.6149947>

BC Vaccine Cards will be implemented Sept. 13 "eligible British Columbians will require proof of one dose of vaccine. By Oct. 24, two doses will be required. The cards will be required for a wide range of recreational and social activities, including indoor ticketed sporting events, indoor and patio dining in restaurants, fitness centres, casinos and indoor organized events, like conferences and weddings."

Amy Barker (*She/Her*)

Research and Policy Analyst

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

P: (236) 478 0813

amy.barker@gov.bc.ca

FW: KMQA VAX Passports

From: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
To: Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 23, 2021 3:55:22 PM PDT

FYI as discussed.
Jamie

From: Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 3:13 PM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>; Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>; Sieben, Mark PSSG:EX <Mark.Sieben@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: KMQA VAX Passports

I think the we are good on the approach laid out the bullets provided to MO in terms of the role of police in enforcement. We will need to see the structure of the order to confirm whether we continue as we have in terms of PHO lead and existing provincial c and e officers supporting in the normal course of duties. The bullets provided to MO also lay out those considerations. Wayne let me know when Jamie and Cole have had a chance to look at structure of the order.

Cheers MS

From: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 23, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>; Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX <Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca>; Latham, Hope GCPE:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>; Sieben, Mark PSSG:EX <Mark.Sieben@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: KMQA VAX Passports

Not much here, just repeat of what we've heard.

One enforcement bullet, which just says, we hope people will comply.

Caroline McAndrews

GCPE Communications Director
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
T: 250 356-1196 | C: 250 208 3254
Caroline.mcandrews@gov.bc.ca

FW: Updated Bullets

From: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX s.15
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 24, 2021 9:30:36 AM PDT
Attachments: image003.jpg, image002.png, image001.png, Updated SG Bullets Vaccine status.docx

For info

From: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Updated Bullets

Hi Wayne,

Please see the revised bullets as requested by the A/DSG today. Thanks to Cole for coordinating this including a quick consult with legal. Note: s.13

s.13 . Details are explained in the attached.

Jamie



Jamie Lipp | Executive Director
COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT
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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9060 Surrey Stn Main Surrey BC V3T 0N4
office: 604 398-4606 | mobile: 604 306-5617
email: jamie.lipp@gov.bc.ca
web: www.gov.bc.ca/Community-Safety-Unit



Where ideas work



UPDATED SG Bullets - Speaking Notes

Re: MMF - Implementing proof of vaccination requirements at Events and the Role of Police
Cliff:

Branch: Policing and Security Branch

The Existing Law and the Role of the Police

- Controlling access to events and business to only those who are double-vaccinated is not the role of the police. They do not have the authority, capacity or mandate to control access to those businesses, or sporting or concert events who decide to limit customer access on the basis of vaccination status.
- Police resources are properly authorized and focussed on public safety issues such as responding to fires, gang conflict, protests, and the general policing demands that are a priority across the entire province.
- While the government encourages all British Columbians to get the vaccine, it is NOT mandatory: it is not the role of police to demand proof of vaccination status – and turn away those who do not have such proof - to private sector events.
- Businesses and events who choose to institute vaccine-dependent access need to plan how they will manage their requirements when people seek access without being double-vaccinated. Their business response plan may include, for example, training for staff in dealing with these situations or retaining in-house or contracted security. Police are not - and cannot be - the default enforcement tool.
- If some businesses choose to require proof of vaccination, there may be legal and privacy implications when placing controls on access to their place of business; however, this is not, in the first instance, for enforcement by police. If a legitimate reason arises for police to respond to a situation, they will continue to do so and in a priority based on the risks of concurrent calls for service.

Implementing Vaccine Requirements at Events

Legal considerations

- A requirement to provide proof of vaccination in order to attend certain non-essential events would need to be done by the Medical Health Officer (MHO) or Provincial Health Officer (PHO) under the Public Health Act. Such a requirement would need to be considered by the MHO or PHO as necessary to protect public health and could not be made by the Solicitor General.
- Legal advice should be sought generally and specifically to determine if it is permissible to have operators of events or law enforcement requiring individuals to provide proof of vaccination status.

COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA)

- On advice of the PHO, it was determined that the *Protective Measures Order* would continue to have effect after the state of emergency ended in order to provide for ongoing

enforcement of PHO orders (i.e. Gatherings and Events and Liquor Serving Premises Order).

- To that end, the *Protective Measures* Order was enacted as a CRMA provision by way of regulation order with an expiry date of December 31, 2021.
- Through the Protective Measures Order individuals could be required to show proof of vaccination to attend gatherings and events like night clubs and major sporting events under the Protective Measures (COVID-19) Order No. 2. The initial concept would be to require that events require proof of vaccination as a condition of operation and that individuals not attend these events unless they are able to provide proof.
- This would require the Provincial Health Officer to amend the Food and Liquor Serving Premises Order and/or the Gatherings and Events Order to introduce new requirements regarding proof of vaccination.
- The Provincial Health Officer would need to consider such an order necessary to protect public health
- While police would be authorized to issue violation tickets they are not - and cannot be - the default enforcement tool.
 - Police resources are properly authorized and focussed on public safety issues such as responding to fires, gang conflict, protests, and the general policing demands that are a priority across the entire province.
- s.13
-
-

Emergency Program Act (EPA)

- The EPA is not a tool that can be used. The state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic expired on July 1, 2021. Without a related state of emergency there is no authority to make emergency orders.

RE: BC Gov News - Mask mandate to reduce transmission, protect people in public spaces

From: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>, Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 24, 2021 11:11:12 AM PDT
Thanks for the update, Jamie.

From: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>; Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: BC Gov News - Mask mandate to reduce transmission, protect people in public spaces

FYI on new Mask Order issued by PHO this morning effective tomorrow province-wide. I have reached out to the PHO's office to get info on expectations and pending authorities for enforcement. We are already getting questions from our policing partners. We have a standing meeting scheduled with them next week and will decide if we may need a special meeting on this subject sooner once we get more info. The team is digging-in to see what more we can find out.

Jamie

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Latham, Hope GCPE:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>; Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>; Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>; Barker, Amy PSSG:EX <Amy.Barker@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: BC Gov News - Mask mandate to reduce transmission, protect people in public spaces

Excellent, thanks Hope.

Matt Brown
Director, Public Safety Initiatives
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: Latham, Hope GCPE:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:01 AM
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: BC Gov News - Mask mandate to reduce transmission, protect people in public spaces

Just noticed this NR

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca
Date: August 24, 2021 at 10:28:29 AM PDT
To: "Latham, Hope GCPE:EX" <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>

For Immediate Release
2021HLTH0053-001665
Aug. 24, 2021

Ministry of Health
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

NEWS RELEASE

Mask mandate to reduce transmission, protect people in public spaces

VICTORIA - As of Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021, masks must be worn in all indoor public spaces throughout B.C. to help slow the transmission of COVID-19 as B.C. prepares for the fall and respiratory illness season.

A new order from the provincial health officer will require people 12 and older to wear masks in indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status. These settings include:

- * malls, shopping centres, coffee shops and retail and grocery stores;
- * liquor and drug stores;
- * airports, city halls, libraries, community and recreation centres;
- * restaurants, pubs and bars (unless seated);
- * on public transportation, in a taxi or ride-sharing vehicle;
- * areas of office buildings where services to the public are provided;
- * common areas of sport and fitness centres when not engaged in physical activity;
- * common areas of post-secondary institutions and non-profit organizations; and
- * inside schools for all K-12 staff, visitors and students in grades 4-12.

This temporary order will be reassessed as the B.C. vaccine card requirement is fully implemented in certain social and recreational settings, as announced on Aug. 23.

"As transmission of COVID-19 increases in B.C., primarily among unvaccinated people and in part due to the Delta variant, it's important to take this extra temporary step to make indoor public spaces safer for everyone," said Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer. "We need to continue doing the things that protect us, including wearing masks in indoor, public areas, practising hand hygiene regularly, staying away if we are sick and keeping a respectful distance from people. And most important of all, every person should get vaccinated to protect themselves, their loved ones and their community."

For the purposes of this order, a mask or face covering is defined as a medical or non-medical mask that covers the nose and mouth. Face shields are not a substitute for a mask, as there is an opening below the mouth.

"As unvaccinated people continue to get sick and hospitalized with COVID-19, we're taking another step to ensure we overcome COVID-19 together, and that we move forward together," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. "Our pandemic has always been about making good

choices with the information we have and making the best choices to keep people safe. Now more than ever, we need to follow the advice and orders of the provincial health officer."

People who cannot wear a mask or who cannot put on or remove a mask without the assistance of others are exempt. A person may not be able to wear a mask for a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or due to a physical, cognitive or mental impairment.

Masks may be removed temporarily in indoor public places to identify the individual wearing the mask, to consume food or beverage at a location designated for this purpose, while participating in a sport or fitness activity in a sport facility or while receiving a personal or health service that requires the mask to be removed.

Masks are not recommended for children under the age of two, but should be encouraged for children aged two to 12 in public settings. Children older than 12 must wear a mask in a public indoor space, unless they are exempt.

Learn More:

For information on the latest provincial health officer's orders and guidance, non-medical issues (such as travel recommendations) and how to manage social isolation, visit:
www.gov.bc.ca/COVID-19

For more information and latest medical updates on COVID-19, visit the BC Centre for Disease Control's website: <http://www.bccdc.ca>
Or follow on Twitter: [@CDCofBC](https://twitter.com/CDCofBC)

For information on how to register and book a COVID-19 appointment, visit:
www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register>)

Contact:

Ministry of Health
Communications
250 952-1887 (media line)

 [READ MORE](#)

[Emergency Preparedness](#), [Government Operations](#), [Health](#)

FW: BC Gov News - Mask mandate to reduce transmission, protect people in public spaces

From: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX <Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca>
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>, Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>, Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>, Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>, Best, Alana PSSG:EX <Alana.Best@gov.bc.ca>, Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Barker, Amy PSSG:EX <Amy.Barker@gov.bc.ca>, Windsor, Devon PSSG:EX <Devon.Windsor@gov.bc.ca>, Latham, Hope GCPE:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>, McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 24, 2021 11:26:25 AM PDT
Here it is!

From: noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca <noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 24, 2021 10:28 AM
To: GCPE Minis <GCPEMINIS@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: BC Gov News - Mask mandate to reduce transmission, protect people in public spaces

For Immediate Release
2021HLTH0053-001665
Aug. 24, 2021

Ministry of Health
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

NEWS RELEASE

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Or follow on Twitter: @CDCofBC

For information on how to register and book a COVID-19 appointment, visit:
www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register>)

Contact:

Ministry of Health
Communications
250 952-1887 (media line)

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[Emergency Preparedness](#), [Government Operations](#), [Health](#)

Executive Message from Lori Wanamaker: COVID-19 Update

From: Executive Update PSA:EX <ExecutiveUpdate@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 24, 2021 2:05:10 PM PDT
Attachments: image004.png, image005.png, image004.png, image006.png, image003.png, image001.png

LORI WANAMAKER

Deputy Minister to the Premier,
Cabinet Secretary and
Head of the BC Public Service



COVID-19 Update

Good afternoon,

In the last two days, government has provided updates for British Columbians on some important next steps in B.C.'s pandemic response. As always, we have assessed the impact these steps have on BC Public Service workplaces.

The requirement for proof of vaccination announced Monday will apply in certain social and recreational settings and events. It does not, however, apply in BC Public Service workplaces at this time. We have appropriate safety measures in place, including for workplaces in the Interior Health region where measures are aligned to the most recent public health orders. The Public Service Agency continues to work with ministries to ensure our workplaces remain safe, and we will continue to adapt our approach consistent with public health advice or where any unique risks may be identified.

Today, the Provincial Health Officer announced she is reinstating mandatory mask use in public indoor settings province-wide. In the Interior Health region, masks are mandatory in all workplaces consistent with recent health orders. Everywhere else in the province, masks are now required in areas of office buildings where services to the public are provided and remain recommended in other workplaces.

Considering the recent increase in COVID-19 cases and the potential delay in the transition to Step 4 of B.C.'s Restart Plan, we have decided to postpone the implementation of our flexible work approach at this time. If you wish to continue working remotely longer-term, you are still required to have an approved telework agreement in place by September 7. However, we will not expect the schedules set out in those telework agreements to apply until October 12, after the Thanksgiving long weekend.

The [Flexible Work FAQ](#) has been updated on MyHR to reflect these changes. The Public Service Agency will update the COVID-19 FAQ with information to reflect these changes shortly. We will continue to assess our plans in the context of the pandemic over the weeks ahead and communicate any further changes as needed. But for now, this means if you are currently working remotely you can continue to do so until at least October 12. However, as has been the case throughout the summer, if you wish to return to your regular workplace in the interim you are encouraged and supported to do so. Those who need to or choose to be in our workplaces can rest assured they remain safe.

We have a very high vaccination rate across B.C. that continues to improve each day, with approximately three-quarters of eligible British Columbians now having received their second dose. Vaccines remain our best defense against COVID-19. If you are among those who have not yet been vaccinated, I strongly encourage you to do so if you are able. It is easy, it is safe and it is one important step we can take that will literally save lives in our communities.

I know the pandemic continues to be a concern for all of us, personally and professionally. My thanks to all of you for your continued professionalism in the face of this ongoing challenge – and thanks also to those of you who are protecting yourselves and your communities by getting vaccinated. We will get through this by continuing to work together, and by being kind, being calm and being safe.

Sincerely,

Lori Wanamaker

Deputy Minister to the Premier,

Cabinet Secretary and Head of the BC Public Service



Where ideas work

We acknowledge with respect that the BC Public Service operates throughout B.C. on the traditional lands of Indigenous

peoples. The BC Public Service is deeply committed to true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in B.C.

Please note: replies to this email will go to Employee News, and will be forwarded to the relevant executive members as appropriate.

Info>PSA Communication Council Update

From: Hall, Cheryl M AG:EX <Cheryl.Hall@gov.bc.ca>
To: AG CIC Working Group <s.17 >
Sent: August 25, 2021 10:56:42 AM PDT

Hello, sharing August 24 PSA updates to the COVID-19 Information page. Thank you!

From: Grindler, Lauren PSA:EX <Lauren.Grindler@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:09 PM
To: PSA Communications Council <COMMCOUN@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Subject: COVID-19 Updates: FAQs, Mask Order, Interior Health/Okanagan Measures

Good afternoon,

A few documents on MyHR have been updated to reflect the latest announcements from the Provincial Health Officer regarding mask wearing, proof of vaccine requirements and measures for the Central Okanagan and Interior Health regions.

- BC Public Service COVID-19 Response FAQs – updated questions are indicated with [UPDATED]
- BC Public Service COVID-19 Workplace Mask Order – a new document to reflect the new mask order
- Public Service Workplace COVID-19 Measures for the Central Okanagan – no changes to measures, but some language updated to clarify procedures
- Public Service Workplace COVID-19 Measures for Interior Health - no changes to measures, but some language updated to clarify procedures

All of these documents are available on the [COVID-19 information for BC Public Service employees page](#). You may need to clear your browser cache to see the latest versions.

Best,

Lauren Grindler, Crisis Communications Officer/Communications Strategist

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Public Service Engagement and Corporate Initiatives | BC Public Service Agency

563 Superior St. | Victoria, BC | V8V 1T7 | P: 778-698-4317 | C: 250-588-3126

@Work: <https://gwww.gov.bc.ca/> | AskMyHR: www.gov.bc.ca/myhr

RE: British Columbia Vaccine Mandate

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: SKATES, Trevor <s.15>
Sent: August 25, 2021 12:07:12 PM PDT

Hi Trevor,

My apologies for not getting back to you yesterday on this.s.22 and spent part of the day catching up with where we are in terms of COVID-19 enforcement.

I heard you on the call at 1130 and Howard spoke to some of the issues you mentioned below. Did you want to connect further on this?

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

Director, Public Safety Initiatives

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: SKATES, Trevor <s.15>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 9:42 AM
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: British Columbia Vaccine Mandate

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good morning Matthew,

The Vancouver Police Department Pandemic Working Group is assessing how the impending vaccination requirement to attend non-essential businesses and settings in Vancouver will effect employees and our operations at the department. I am hoping that we may be able to discuss several issues and concerns that have already been brought to our attention at your earliest convenience.

Issues related to mandatory vaccination for employees (sworn and civilian) are being discussed, particularly with the recent announcement from the Toronto Police Service announcing mandatory vaccination and/or rapid testing.

If you are able to discuss some of these matters, I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,

ACTING SERGEANT 2733 TREVOR SKATES

PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

3585 Graveley Street | Vancouver, BC | V5K 5J5

Office: 604-717-8749 | Cell: s.15

E: s.15 | www.vpd.ca

RE: Important Update: Mandatory Face Coverings in Indoor Public Spaces - August 25, 2021

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harj Sidhu <s.15 >
Sent: August 25, 2021 4:39:12 PM PDT

Hi Harj,

Sounds like a plan to approach it that way. I too thought we'd be well past this by now but no such luck. Have a nice evening. I will forward the meeting invite to Guy for next week's COVID-19 enforcement working group scheduled for Thursday.

Thanks, Matt
Matt Brown
Director, Public Safety Initiatives
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: Harj Sidhu <s.15 >
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 4:31 PM
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Important Update: Mandatory Face Coverings in Indoor Public Spaces - August 25, 2021

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Matt thanks for the follow up and discussion on call today as you mentioned the devil will be in the details of the order so we will as usual be taking a measured approach until we receive further information. Here we thought we would be moving into step 4 and the pandemic and its problems would be farther in rear-view mirror. Never that easy 😊

Regards,
Harj

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX [<mailto:Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: August 25, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Harj Sidhu <s.15 >
Subject: RE: Important Update: Mandatory Face Coverings in Indoor Public Spaces - August 25, 2021
Good morning Harj,

Sorry for the delayed response. I'll make sure Ciaran and Guy receive the invite for next Thursday.

Did you get the one for today's call at 1130? We have a bit more information to share on the enforcement front and thought best to pull a call together to share this along with next steps.

As for common spaces in buildings, I pulled the following off the link I shared yesterday where the PHO speaks to masks in office buildings, etc.

Today, the Provincial Health Officer announced she is reinstating mandatory mask use in public indoor settings province-wide. In the Interior Health region, masks are mandatory in all workplaces consistent with recent health orders. Everywhere else in the province, masks are now required in areas of office buildings where services to the public are provided and remain recommended in other workplaces.

I think the devil will be in the details once the order is out and would anticipate WorkSafeBC will have some direction to places of work, etc.

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

Director, Public Safety Initiatives

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: Harj Sidhu <s.15>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 3:02 PM

To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Important Update: Mandatory Face Coverings in Indoor Public Spaces - August 25, 2021

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Matt

Thank you for the follow up and understand as in past things are evolving daily. I do not see an invite. Unfortunately so hoping I can have Insp. Guy Leeson dial

in for updates. We are trying to sort out what public spaces aspect of the mask order and guidance from our City nurse is to consider that to mean all common spaces in our buildings again. So essentially back to wearing masks in all common building spaces as we did previously. Thoughts?

Regards,

Harj

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX [mailto:Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca]

Sent: August 24, 2021 2:51 PM

To: Harj Sidhu <s.15>

Subject: RE: Important Update: Mandatory Face Coverings in Indoor Public Spaces - August 25, 2021

Hi Harj,

Great questions and quite honestly, I think both Health and WorkSafeBC are still ironing out the details given the back to back announcements. The one this morning came as a surprise to many parts of the provincial government. As for vaccine mandates and enforcement of, we're awaiting direction from legal services branch to determine who this would unfold if at all. A lot of uncertainty at the moment with the hopes of clarity to come.

As for the working group, we are scheduled for Thursday September 2 – do you have the invite? If not I will send. By that time, I am hopeful more information will be available.

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

Director, Public Safety Initiatives

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

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From: Harj Sidhu <s.15>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:44 PM

To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Important Update: Mandatory Face Coverings in Indoor Public Spaces - August 25, 2021

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thanks Matt I was wondering when we would be seeing the enforcement aspect of some of the decisions recently with 4th wave. I was actually more curious about the vaccine mandates and how it is being left up to individual businesses and organizations to manage and enforce. s.13 and wondering if you had heard whether Work Safe would be providing any clarity. I could see this generating lots of calls for service especially at pubs and restaurants. It will be like us enforcing our Inadmissible Patron Program involving violent subjects where staff refuse service and we have to go to enforce aspects of the trespass act. Is there plans to restart the working group again?

Regards,
Harj

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX [mailto:Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca]

Sent: August 24, 2021 11:43 AM

To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; s.15
s.15

s.15 Waldron, Fraser

PSSG:EX <Fraser.Waldron@gov.bc.ca>; s.15

s.15 Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>; Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX
<Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>; Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>; s.15

s.15 Schley, Cam D ENV:EX <Cameron.Schley@gov.bc.ca>; s.15

s.15

s.15

s.15 Montgomery, Philip GPEB:EX <Philip.Montgomery@gov.bc.ca>; Gill, Rup K LCRB:EX
<Rupi.Gill@gov.bc.ca>; Liedtke, Michael ENV:EX <Michael.Liedtke@gov.bc.ca>; Ito, Miwa ENV:EX
<Miwa.Ito@gov.bc.ca>; Mior, Peter LCRB:EX <Peter.Mior@gov.bc.ca>; Beck, Charlene GPEB:EX
<Charlene.Beck@gov.bc.ca>; Skrine, Cary J GPEB:EX <Cary.Skrine@gov.bc.ca>; Levasseur, Janeane LCRB:EX
<Janeane.Levasseur@gov.bc.ca>; Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX <Chris.Doyle@gov.bc.ca>; s.15

s.15

s.15 Brazier, Heather M EMBC:EX <Heather.Brazier@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX
<Tom.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; s.15 Barker, Amy PSSG:EX <Amy.Barker@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Important Update: Mandatory Face Coverings in Indoor Public Spaces - August 25, 2021

Good morning,

I am writing to advise that this morning, the Provincial Health Officer announced that effective August 25, 2021, face coverings must be worn in indoor public spaces in an effort to slow the transmission of COVID-19 in BC.

This temporary order applies province-wide and will require people 12 and older to wear face coverings in public settings regardless of vaccination status. These settings include:

- malls, shopping centres, coffee shops and retail and grocery stores;
- liquor and drug stores;
- airports, city halls, libraries, community and recreation centres;
- restaurants, pubs and bars (unless seated);
- on public transportation, in a taxi or ride-sharing vehicle;
- areas of office buildings where services to the public are provided;
- common areas of sport and fitness centres when not engaged in physical activity;
- common areas of post-secondary institutions and non-profit organizations; and
- inside schools for all K-12 staff, visitors and students in grades 4-12.

Please note, this is a verbal order at this time which means it is not enforceable by way of violation ticket. Once the written order is posted, you can be assured we will provide guidance documentation as soon as possible. Further, the duration of this order will be reassessed as the province looks to fully implement the BC vaccine care requirement announcement yesterday.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone if you have any questions. I have attached the following link specific to this announcement:

[Mask mandate to reduce transmission, protect people in public spaces | BC Gov News](#)

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

Director, Public Safety Initiatives

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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RE: British Columbia Vaccine Mandate

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: SKATES, Trevor <s.15> >, CHAN, Andrew
Cc: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, GIBBONS, John <s.15> >
Sent: August 25, 2021 4:44:10 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg, image003.jpg, image002.jpg, image007.gif

Hi Andrew,

Thank you for the note and I would agree with your suggestion as it doesn't offer the approach used to date which is compliance by education first. I will reach out to the folks responsible for this and make this suggestion. Appreciate this.

Matt
Matt Brown
Director, Public Safety Initiatives
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: CHAN, Andrew <andrew.chan@vpd.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 12:17 PM
To: SKATES, Trevor <s.15> >; Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: GIBBONS, John <s.15> >
Subject: RE: British Columbia Vaccine Mandate

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello Matt,

Thanks for the information on the call today. In regards to the enforcement messaging to the public, we noted that on the Province Covid website, that the police are listed first under the enforcement and how tickets are given out links. We understand that the police may need to intervene in situations of non-compliance that elevate to a criminal threshold, and that we will always support our local businesses and the public, but it would be helpful if the public facing messaging emphasized that other health compliance partners could be engaged in the first instance.

I appreciate that your office does not control the messaging on this website, but I just wanted you to be aware nonetheless.

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

Enforcement

During a public health emergency under the Public Health Act, the PHO can make orders as needed. You must follow the orders. Some orders can be enforced by police or other compliance and enforcement officials. People who don't follow these orders could be fined.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/violation-tickets>

How tickets are given out

Violation tickets can be issued by:

- Police officers
- Community safety unit
- Liquor and cannabis inspectors
- Gaming investigators
- Conservation officers

WorkSafeBC investigators will assist through their existing authorities and tools.

If violation tickets do not act as a deterrent, or in cases of particularly egregious contraventions or for repeat offenders, police can recommend charges in relation to the offence. On conviction, judicial penalties of up to \$10,000 and/or one year in prison may be imposed.

Best regards,
Andrew



SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW CHAN

OPERATIONS DIVISION | SOUTH COMMAND
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*
Mailing Address: 3585 Graveley Street | Vancouver BC | V5K 5J5
T: 604.717.3676 | C: s.15
E: s.15

From: SKATES, Trevor <s.15>

Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 12:14 PM

To: 'Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX' <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: CHAN, Andrew <s.15>; GIBBONS, John <s.15>

Subject: RE: British Columbia Vaccine Mandate

Good afternoon Matt,

Thanks for the e-mail. I appreciate the situation is evolving and that we anticipate more information to be announced that will clarify these issues. I think we will continue to assess the situation as it develops and follow up once more information is confirmed.

Thank you again for your assistance with this.

Take care,

ACTING SERGEANT 2733 TREVOR SKATES

PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

3585 Graveley Street | Vancouver, BC | V5K 5J5

Office: 604-717-8749 | Cell: s.15

E: s.15 | www.vpd.ca

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 12:07 PM

To: SKATES, Trevor s.15

Subject: RE: British Columbia Vaccine Mandate

Hi Trevor,

My apologies for not getting back to you yesterday on this.s.22 and spent part of the day catching up with where we are in terms of COVID-19 enforcement.

I heard you on the call at 1130 and Howard spoke to some of the issues you mentioned below. Did you want to connect further on this?

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

Director, Public Safety Initiatives

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: SKATES, Trevor <s.15>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 9:42 AM
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: British Columbia Vaccine Mandate

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good morning Matthew,

The Vancouver Police Department Pandemic Working Group is assessing how the impending vaccination requirement to attend non-essential businesses and settings in Vancouver will effect employees and our operations at the department. I am hoping that we may be able to discuss several issues and concerns that have already been brought to our attention at your earliest convenience.

Issues related to mandatory vaccination for employees (sworn and civilian) are being discussed, particularly with the recent announcement from the Toronto Police Service announcing mandatory vaccination and/or rapid testing.

If you are able to discuss some of these matters, I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,

ACTING SERGEANT 2733 TREVOR SKATES

PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

3585 Gravelly Street | Vancouver, BC | V5K 5J5

Office: 604-717-8749 | Cell:s.15

E:s.15 | www.vpd.ca

Enforcement

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- Gaming investigators
- Conservation officers

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RE: Mandatory mask order and vaccine passport

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: McCaskill, Darrin WCB:EX <Darrin.McCaskill@worksafebc.com>, Strand, Dan WCB:EX <Dan.Strand@worksafebc.com>
Cc: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 26, 2021 9:48:52 AM PDT

Thank for the thorough response Dan. Really appreciate that.

And you're right, more to come as things evolve.
Have a great day.

Matt
Matt Brown
Director, Public Safety Initiatives
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: Strand, Dan <Dan.Strand@worksafebc.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; McCaskill, Darrin WCB:EX <Darrin.McCaskill@worksafebc.com>
Cc: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Mandatory mask order and vaccine passport

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Matthew

To some extent, we are simply going back to the future with respect to the mandatory mask order. That is a PHO order. We don't enforce it in the public sense. That's more for bylaw and EHOs to do and hold accountable.

As for workplace adherence to these orders, employers have already adopted these practices for their employees and most will simply fall into line and follow suit. Reasonable public will also implore these businesses to take precautions. We get these calls regularly and response through our triage process. Also, our officers have been instructed to continue to examine workplace practices for Communicable Disease Prevention with every worksite inspection so nothing really changes for us on that front.

The concept of vaccine passport has a loose connection to the workplace setting albeit from a workplace violence prevention perspective. The actual bar code, QR code, hard copy vaxx card, database type conversation is not ours to weigh into and we haven't been part of those discussions.

Simply asking the question at the door, swiping or seeing a card, much like asking for ID when ordering an alcoholic drink, but sooner, is where the conversation may become problematic and present a risk to workers. And whether the small percentage of non vaxxed irate customers make a huge issue at the door of a restaurant/bar/gym, we would expect employers to have existing violence in the workplace procedures to deal with these matters.

So we will continue on managing the issues as they come to our attention and there will be more messaging through various channels to educate the masses on our position and ensuring the health and safety of workers and the public who frequent their premise.

More to come as things evolve. It's really day to day at this point!!

Dan

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX [<mailto:Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 8:52 AM
To: Strand, Dan <Dan.Strand@worksafebc.com>; McCaskill, Darrin <Darrin.McCaskill@worksafebc.com>
Cc: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Mandatory mask order and vaccine passport
Good morning to you both,

I hope you've had an opportunity for some vacation time over the course of the last couple of months before we head into fall.

With the return to the mandatory mask order and vaccine passport rollout, we have no doubt WorkSafeBC is heavily involved in both elements across the province. Is there anything you're able to share to highlight the approach being taken by WorkSafeBC at this time? Yesterday, we had a call with police leaders across the province to share what we know at this point in time and how we expect the orders to rollout in the next day or two.

As always, anything you're able to share would be great. We have the COVID-19 Working Group scheduled for next Thursday as well.

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

Director, Public Safety Initiatives

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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As B.C. restarts, continue to focus on health and safety to reduce the risk of communicable disease in your workplace. Learn more and find resources at worksafebc.com. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) for the latest announcements, jobs, workplace health and safety resources, and news from WorkSafeBC.

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RE: Policing vaccination is wrong. We need more education and more access

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>, PSSG Policing and Security Branch PSSG:EX <SGPSPB@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Barker, Amy PSSG:EX <Amy.Barker@gov.bc.ca>, Ferrier, Rob L PSSG:EX <Rob.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 26, 2021 10:41:26 AM PDT

Thanks for this Vanessa. Appreciate the FYI.

Cc'ing Amy and Rob as well.

Matt

Matt Brown
Director, Public Safety Initiatives
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 3:35 PM
To: PSSG Policing and Security Branch PSSG:EX <SGPSPB@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Policing vaccination is wrong. We need more education and more access

Hi Vanessa – yes, in PSB, it would fall to my area. Copying Matt for info and awareness.

Jamie

From: PSSG Policing and Security Branch PSSG:EX <SGPSPB@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Policing vaccination is wrong. We need more education and more access

Hi Jamie,

Would this fall under your unit? I don't think a response is needed, just an FYI.

Vanessa

From: s.22
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Merrifield.MLA, Renee LASS:EX <Renee.Merrifield.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX <HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; PSSG Policing and Security Branch PSSG:EX <SGPSPB@gov.bc.ca>; mayorandcouncil <mayorandcouncil@kelowna.ca>; dan.albas@parl.gc.ca; Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX <SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX <PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Health, HLTH HLTH:EX <HLTH.Health@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Policing vaccination is wrong. We need more education and more access

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

This new policing vaccination measure that was announced today is a violation of human rights. There is never any consideration for poor and/ or disabled people. The vast majority of our unvaccinated population has legitimate questions, concerns and access needs that are going unacknowledged.

Our government has legalized ableism. Legislated ableism. This is everything I scream about that none of you takes seriously. This is going to harm so many disabled people. And not just the few with medical issues who should have legitimate exemptions. The way this policing will be enforced will cause serious harm to poor and homeless people. Most of which are disabled.

Think about it. You need to have a smart phone for proof of vaccination. Many of our homeless neighbours use inexpensive memberships to access places like the Parkinson Rec centre to shower. This policing measure will impact their ability to get any kind of service. They won't even be able to enter a coffee shop.

If you do not centre the needs of our most vulnerable community members when writing policy you will cause them harm.

What we actually need is education and accessibility to get more people vaccinated.

I have a friend who is allergic to vaccines. They went in anyway hoping to be able to get vaccinated because they are at extremely high risk with other medical issues and the nurses at the vaccine clinic refused to vaccinate them. It's at least a few months wait to be able to get into a specialist to see if there is any way they can be vaccinated. They have called everyone trying to get answers but no one can answer their questions about serious allergies to the ingredients.

People who legitimately can't be vaccinated are forced to continue isolating when the general population couldn't handle doing it for a few fucking weeks. They have already been in full isolation since the pandemic started. Think about that. a year and a half locked in their apartment. The one and only outing they have had was a few weeks ago to try and be vaccinated. And today's news is no help. Just policing. When what people actually need is more information and more access.

What we should actually be spending money and resources on is getting accessible information to everyone. And make getting vaccinated accessible. Neither of those things has been done. Our government jumped straight to policing. Just today a story in the news of a disabled Kelowna woman who was isolated at home and wasn't vaccinated and died of covid. Imagine if people like her could have booked an appointment to have a vaccination at home. Imagine if my extremely high risk friend could actually access someone who understands her allergy and health issues. The vast majority of our unvaccinated population has legitimate questions, concerns and access needs that are going unacknowledged.

This is all so many levels of wrong.

So how do we file human rights complaints? because that is where this is headed.

When will you all learn that more policing is always the wrong response?

Always,

s.22

FW: MOH response on enforcement as of today (vaccine passport)

From: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <s.15 >
To: Winegarden, Cole PSSG:EX <Cole.Winegarden@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 26, 2021 2:12:32 PM PDT

From: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 12:05 PM
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: MOH response on enforcement as of today (vaccine passport)

Just FYI

From: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 11:23 AM
To: Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>; Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX <Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca>; Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>; Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: MOH response on enforcement as of today (vaccine passport)

FYI from MOH, see highlighted response at the bottom on enforcement at this point.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 26, 2021 11:07 AM
To: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Our response today

Reporters

Maria Weisgarber, Reporter
CTV News (BC)
maria.weisgarber@bellmedia.ca
604-609-5800 c: 604-787-9676

Amanda Thode, Reporter
Radio NL
mandanicole203509@gmail.com
250-859-5381

Megan Turcato, Reporter
Global - Okanagan
megan.turcato@globalnews.ca
250-309-4548 c: 250-309-4548
Deadline ASAP

Request

GLOBAL OK:

Global Okanagan is working on stories for tonight's newscast about local business opposition to the vaccine passport.

The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce is calling for a delay in implementation as it doesn't feel the government has been clear enough about how the rollout will work and be enforced. It is concerned that staff are going to be getting into conflict with people when they try to check vaccination status. It is also concerned that the passport system will be another economic blow to businesses.

We are also hearing from businesses who say they don't want to enforce the vaccine passport as they see it as a form of discrimination.

Will a ministry of health spokesperson be available today for an interview to speak to this concerns and what the consequences will be for businesses who don't participate in the vaccine passport program?

CHNL:

I am hoping someone may be able to speak on our morning show tomorrow morning to answer questions about the vaccination card and businesses who have publicly said they won't enforce them. 7:40 would be ideal but if not we can make another time work. Howie could maybe do a prerecord today as well.

CTV:

Hoping to get a response regarding possibly penalties for applicable businesses in BC who don't check for Vaccine Cards once the program comes into effect. Please let me know, we are working on a story for 5 and 6 tonight. I have also requested an interview with Minister Farnworth, but please let me know if Minister Dix may also be able to speak to this.

Recommendation

The BC Vaccine Card comes into effect September 13. A secure web link will provide confidential access to the proof of vaccination. This web link and more details will be widely communicated to the public in advance of September 13.

Proof of vaccination requirements will apply to all sectors identified:

- indoor ticketed sporting events
- indoor concerts
- indoor theatre/dance/symphony events
- restaurants (indoor and patio dining)
- night clubs
- casinos
- movie theatres
- fitness centres/gyms (excluding youth recreational sport)
- businesses offering indoor high-intensity group exercise activities
- organized indoor events (eg. weddings, parties, conferences, meetings, workshops)
- discretionary organized indoor group recreational classes and activities

We expect all relevant businesses to comply with public health orders, and the Province will be engaging with them over the next several weeks to support them with this work. Throughout the pandemic, we've been working closely with stakeholders across a broad spectrum. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to engage with businesses to ensure they have the information and support needed before the card comes into effect. Businesses will also be provided with a download, showing acceptable proof of vaccine for visitors from other Canadian jurisdictions. If individuals or businesses do not comply, there are enforcement measures, such as closure, that can be considered.

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

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Cc: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX <Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca>; Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>; Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
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Subject: Our response today

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Maria Weisgarber, Reporter
CTV News (BC)
maria.weisgarber@bellmedia.ca
604-609-5800 c: 604-787-9676

Amanda Thode, Reporter
Radio NL
mandanicole203509@gmail.com
250-859-5381

Megan Turcato, Reporter
Global - Okanagan
megan.turcato@globalnews.ca
250-309-4548 c: 250-309-4548

Deadline ASAP

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Aileen Machell (she/her)

Communications Director

Health Communications

250-361-5381

Re: FYI- media on vaccine non compliance

From: Brown, Ian S LCRB:EX <Ian.S.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 27, 2021 4:04:07 PM PDT

Yes we would take same actions and coms. It's the same situation - administrative suspension with the same come approach.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 27, 2021, at 15:00, Maloughney, Mary Sue LCRB:EX <MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Yes and following a pho closure Lcrb would cancel the liquor licence. I assume we would use the same communication approach to be sure we are coordinated and have heads up.

On Aug 27, 2021, at 10:00 AM, Lipp, Jamie M PSSG:EX <Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

RE: Enforcement - vaccine card

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dunsdon, Kelly PSSG:EX <Kelly.Dunsdon@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 27, 2021 4:15:12 PM PDT

Hi Kelly,

Great to hear from you. Unfortunately, I don't have any information or insight other than what has been shared publicly by the PHO. You're right about this being an evolving issue and I would gather the PHO is still working out the legalities as they work to draft an order and other associated documents including enforcement and who will be doing this as I'm not certain this will be police.

As for POST, it came to an end in June as there were very few calls and in light of the re-opening on July 1, 2021, GPEB inspectors returned to their normal work responsibilities.

All that to say, I would anticipate more information to come next week leading up to the 13th.

Hope that is helpful.

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

Director, Public Safety Initiatives

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: Dunsdon, Kelly PSSG:EX <Kelly.Dunsdon@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 2:59 PM

To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Enforcement - vaccine card

Hi Matt,

I'm wondering if you would be able to provide any information regarding enforcement of the new PHO order for Sept. 13 requiring proof of vaccination when attending non-essential businesses/events.

Similar to enforcement of the previous order on price gouging and re-selling of essential goods, Consumer Protection BC (CPBC) is starting to receive complaints about businesses that are planning to violate the PHO order and not to check vaccination status as required. As you know, for price gouging and re-selling CPBC had a referral process in place to refer complaints to the COVID-19 Provincial Orders Support Team (POST). However, we're not sure if POST has been wound down, or if there will be an alternative process for the new PHO order.

I know this is likely an emerging/evolving issue, but we're trying to get out ahead of the game and understand what this will mean for complaints to CPBC.

Do you have any info on this, or is there someone else I should be reaching out to?

Thanks,

Kelly

Kelly Dunsdon

A/Director, Policy and Legislation

Corporate Policy and Planning Office

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

(250) 952-2379

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:45 AM

To: Dunsdon, Kelly PSSG:EX <Kelly.Dunsdon@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: GCPE request - price gouging tickets

Good morning Kelly,

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. I'm not aware of any additional tickets for this. The issue of price gouging and secondary selling has largely been reduced in light of increased availability of items that were of the main concern in early pandemic days.

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

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