



ORDER OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER

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

GATHERINGS AND EVENTS – May 7, 2021

The *Public Health Act* is at:

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

(excerpts enclosed)

- TO: RESIDENTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**
- TO: OPERATORS AND OCCUPANTS OF VACATION ACCOMMODATION**
- TO: OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS OF PRIVATE RESIDENCES**
- TO: OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF PLACES**
- TO: PERSONS WHO ORGANIZE EVENTS**
- TO: PERSONS WHO ATTEND EVENTS**
- TO: PERSONS WHO OWN, OPERATE OR ARE PASSENGERS IN PERIMETER SEATING VEHICLES OR PERIMETER SEATING BUSES**
- TO: MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS**

WHEREAS:

- A. On March 17, 2020 I provided notice under section 52 (2) of the *Public Health Act* that the transmission of the infectious agent SARS-CoV-2, which has caused cases and outbreaks of a serious communicable disease known as COVID-19 among the population of the Province of British Columbia, constitutes a regional event as defined in section 51 of the *Public Health Act*;
- B. A person infected with SARS-CoV-2 can infect other people with whom the infected person is in direct contact through droplets in the air, or from fluid containing SARS-CoV-2 left on surfaces;

- C. Social interactions and close contact between people are associated with significant increases in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, and increases in the number of people who develop COVID-19 and become seriously ill;
- D. People spending time together indoors significantly increases the risk of the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in the population, thereby increasing the number of people who develop COVID-19 and become seriously ill;
- E. Virus variants of concern which are more transmissible and have the potential to cause more serious illness, including among younger populations, are now present in Canada and the Province, and have heightened the risk to the population if people gather together.
- F. The Province is experiencing a substantial increase in the transmission of COVID-19, raising the risk of rapid exponential growth in cases and resulting in persisting high levels of cases and increased clusters and outbreaks which, in turn, is producing increasing incidences of serious disease leading to elevations in hospitalizations, intensive care admissions and deaths. This is resulting in increasing pressure on the health care system to care for people, and on the public health system to carry out contact tracing for the purpose of preventing further transmission and is putting at risk the continued operation of schools, which is critical to the physical, mental and emotional health of children and youth;
- G. Gatherings and events in private residences and other places continue to pose a significant risk of promoting the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and increase in the number of people who develop COVID-19 and become seriously ill;
- H. I recognize the societal effects, including the hardships, which the measures which I have and continue to put in place to protect the health of the population have on many aspects of life, and with this in mind continually engage in a process of reconsideration of these measures, based upon the information and evidence available to me, including infection rates, sources of transmission, the presence of clusters and outbreaks, the number of people in hospital and in intensive care, deaths, the emergence of and risks posed by virus variants of concern, vaccine availability, immunization rates, the vulnerability of particular populations and reports from the rest of Canada and other jurisdictions, with a view to balancing the interests of the public, including constitutionally protected interests, in gatherings and events, against the risk of harm created by gatherings and events;
- I. I further recognize that constitutionally-protected interests include the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, including specifically freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association. These freedoms, and the other rights protected by the *Charter*, are not, however, absolute and are subject to reasonable limits, prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society. These limits include proportionate, precautionary and evidence-based restrictions to prevent loss of life, serious illness and disruption of our health system and society. When exercising my powers to protect the health of the public from the risks

posed by COVID-19, I am aware of my obligation to choose measures that limit the *Charter* rights and freedoms of British Columbians less intrusively, where this is consistent with public health principles. In consequence, I am not prohibiting outdoor assemblies for the purpose of communicating a position on a matter of public interest or controversy, subject to my expectation that persons organizing or attending such an assembly will take the steps and put in place the measures recommended in the guidelines posted on my website in order to limit the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

- J. This Order does not apply to the Executive Council, the Legislative Assembly; a council, board, or trust committee of a local authority as defined under the *Community Charter*, when holding a meeting or public hearing without members of the public attending in person; the distribution of food or other supplies to people in need; health or social services provided to people in need, such as warming centres; individual attendance at a place of worship for the purpose of prayer or quiet reflection; health care related events such as immunization clinics, COVID-19 testing centres and blood donation clinics; court sittings wherever they occur; workers at a workplace when engaged in their work activities; workers living at a work camp; students, teachers or instructors at a school, or a post-secondary educational institution when engaged in educational activities; public pools and public skating rinks when not associated with an event; customers in a service business; a volunteer work party engaged in gardening, vegetation removal, trail building or a similar outside activity; the use of any place for local government, provincial or federal election purpose; or a rehabilitation or an exercise therapy program.
- K. For certainty, this Order applies to private residences, vacation accommodation and private clubs and organizations;
- L. I have reason to believe and do believe that
 - (i) the risk of an outbreak of COVID-19 among the public constitutes a health hazard under the *Public Health Act*;
 - (ii) there continues to be an urgent need for focused action to reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19 which extends beyond the authority of one or more medical health officers;
 - (iii) coordinated action is needed to protect the public from the transmission of COVID-19;
 - (iv) it is in the public interest for me to exercise the powers in sections 30, 31, 32 and 39 (3) of the *Public Health Act* TO ORDER as follows:

THIS ORDER REPEALS AND REPLACES MY ORDER OF MARCH 31, 2021 WITH RESPECT TO GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

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DEFINITIONS:

“affected area” means British Columbia;

“banquet hall” means a stand-alone premises built for the purpose of holding large social events, including banquets, generally involving many hundreds of people. It does not include the premises associated with a private club, hotel, house of worship, recreation centre, sports organization or other non-profit organization with a community, educational, historical, sports or similar purpose, or owned or operated or otherwise controlled by a government;

“critical service” means critical to preserving, life, health, public safety and basic societal functioning and includes health services, social services, police services, fire services, ambulance services, first responders, emergency responders and critical infrastructure service providers;

“distributed learning” has the same meaning as in the *School Act*;

“episodic market” includes farmers’ markets and community markets;

“event” refers to an in-person gathering of people in any place whether private or public, inside or outside, organized or not, on a one-time, regular or irregular basis, including drive-ins and drive-throughs, such as to see a display or to drop off items; events; meetings and conferences; a gathering in vacation accommodation, a private residence, banquet hall, entertainment arcade or other place; a gathering of passengers; a party; a worship or other religious service, ceremony or celebration; a ceremony; a reception; a wedding; a baptism; a funeral; a celebration of life; a musical, theatrical or dance entertainment or performance; a live solo or band musical performance; a disc jockey performance; strip dancing; comedic act; art show; magic show; puppet show; fashion show; book signing; reading; recitation; display, including a seasonal light display; a movie; film; lecture; talk; educational presentation (except in a school or post-secondary educational institution); auction; fund raising benefit; contest; competition; quiz; game; rally; rodeo; sport including equestrian event; festival; presentation; demonstration; group sport; indoor group high intensity exercise; indoor group low intensity exercise; exhibition; car show; speciality car event; market or fair, including a trade fair, agricultural fair, episodic market selling food for human consumption, seasonal fair or episodic indoor event that has as its primary purpose the sale of merchandise or services such as a craft market, home show, antique fair and similar activities; and, for certainty, includes a gathering preceding or following another event;

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

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

“group sport” means a sporting activity involving more than one person and includes training and practice for an individual or a team sport, but does not include sport for children or youth, varsity sport or high-performance athlete sport;

“health check” means reviewing the entry requirement and key questions at <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/health-and-safety/health-checks> and which are on the poster at <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/posters/help-prevent-spread-covid-19-entry-check-workers?lang=en>;

“high- performance athlete” means a person who is identified by the Canadian Sport Institute Pacific as a high-performance athlete affiliated with an accredited provincial or national sports organization;

“home club” means the sport organization, club or facility with, or at which, a person is registered for ongoing sport programming;

“home education” means the type of program provided for in Part 2, Division 4 of the *School Act*;

“occupant” means an individual who occupies vacation accommodation or resides in a private residence;

“organizer” means the person responsible for organizing an event and the person who acts as host at an event;

“owner” includes an occupier, operator or person otherwise responsible for a place;

“passenger” means a person in a perimeter seating vehicle or a perimeter seating bus, other than the driver or a mechanic;

“patron” means a person, including a child or youth, who attends or is a participant in an event, including a passenger, an occupant, a person other than an occupant who is present in a private residence or vacation accommodation, a person who attends a worship service, a teacher at an event, a leader or presenter at a meeting, an officiant at a wedding, baptism or funeral, customers of a retail business, members of the public present at a market, participants in sport or exercise, spectators at programs for children or youth, spectators at sport, or exercise, spectators at a drive-through, drive-in or drive-by event, volunteers at an event, vendors, exhibitors, performers and presenters, but does not include a person who organizes or hosts an event , a worship leader at a worship service, event staff or staff in a place subject to the *Food and Liquor Serving Premises* order;

“perimeter seating” and **“perimeter seating bus”** have the same meaning as in the Passenger Transportation Regulation made under the *Passenger Transportation Act* [SBC2004] Ch. 39;

“physical barrier” means a barrier which is designed, installed and maintained in accordance with WorkSafeBC guidelines at <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/covid-19-health-safety-designing-effective-barriers?lang=en>;

“a place” includes areas both inside and outside, an area open to the public and an area not open to the public, a banquet hall, private residence, vacation accommodation, a perimeter seating vehicle or a perimeter seating bus;

“private residence” includes areas both inside and outside;

“program for children or youth” means a structured educational program, including home education or distributed learning, music, art, drama, dance, recreational, exercise, or social activity supervised by an adult and provided for persons under 22 years of age;

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

(a) an educational or training program provided under

- (i) the *College and Institute Act*,
- (ii) the *Royal Roads University Act*,
- (iii) the *Thompson Rivers University Act*,
- (iv) the *University Act*, or
- (v) the *Private Training Act*;

(b) a program provided in accordance with a consent given under the *Degree Authorization Act*;

(c) a theological education or training program provided under an Act;

“retail business” means a business that sells retail goods, including a grocery store, clothing store, sporting good store or liquor or cannabis store and includes a department store and the common areas in a mall;

“school” in paragraph K of the recitals means any of the following:

- (a) a school as defined in the School Act;
- (b) a francophone school as defined in the School Act;
- (c) a Provincial school as defined in the School Act;
- (d) an independent school as defined in the Independent School Act;
- (e) a school operated on First Nation land by the government of Canada or by a participating First Nation or a Community Education Authority established by one or more participating First Nations under the First Nations Jurisdiction over Education in British Columbia Act (Canada);
- (f) a school operated by the Nisga’a Nation, or a treaty first nation, under its own laws;

“sport for children or youth” means an activity which is delivered by a provincial sport organization or a local sport organization and may include participants who are under 22 years of age, but does not include varsity sports;

“support group” means a group of people who provide support to one another with respect to grief, disability, substance use, addiction or another psychological, mental or physical health condition;

“transport” means for the purpose of conveying a passenger, but does not include conveying a passenger:

- (a) to and from an event, except conveying a worker for the purpose of working at an event;
- (b) for the purpose of social interaction or another type of event in a perimeter seating vehicle or a perimeter seating bus; or
- (c) from a place which is subject to the *Food and Liquor Serving Premises and Retail Establishments Which Sell Liquor Order*;

“unencumbered space” means an area without items in it such as display units, tables, cabinets, shelves, counters, fridges or freezers;

“unencumbered and usable space” means an area suitable for exercising in without anything in it other than exercise equipment, exercise mats or other exercise related objects;

“vacation accommodation” means a house, townhouse, cottage, cabin, apartment, condominium, mobile home, recreational vehicle, hotel suite, tent, yurt, houseboat or any other type of living accommodation, and any associated deck, garden or yard, that is not the occupant’s primary residence;

“varsity sport” means a sport for which the eligibility requirements for participation are established by a national association for the regulation of intercollegiate athletics, or which is designated as a varsity sport program by a post-secondary institution, and includes fitness training, sport training, practice and competition;

“vehicle” means a motorized fully enclosed means of transportation designed to hold a driver and passengers and meant to be driven on the highway;

“vendor” means a person who sells a product or service at an episodic market and includes the staff of a vendor.

A. PRIVATE RESIDENCES AND VACATION ACCOMMODATION

1. No person may host an event at a private residence or vacation accommodation where there is a person present who is not an occupant, except as provided for in sections 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
2. A person who is not an occupant may be present at a private residence or vacation accommodation for the purpose of
 - a. an occupant's work,
 - b. being provided with care by an occupant,
 - c. a visit by a minor child of an occupant with whom the minor child does not reside on a regular basis,
 - d. providing assistance, care or services, including care to a child who is an occupant or an adult who is an occupant who requires care, health care, personal care or grooming services,
 - e. providing educational programming or tutoring to an occupant,
 - f. providing music lessons to an occupant,
 - g. providing religious services to an occupant
 - h. providing legal or financial services to an occupant,
 - i. emergency services,
 - j. housekeeping and window washing,
 - k. gardening and landscape services,
 - l. maintenance,
 - m. repairs,
 - n. renovations,
 - o. moving services,
 - p. or another purpose that is not social in nature.
3. No person who is not an occupant may be present at a private residence or vacation accommodation, except as provided for in sections 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
4. No occupant may be present at an event in a private residence or vacation accommodation if there is any person present who is not an occupant, except as provided for in sections 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
5. Despite sections 1, 3, and 4, an occupant who lives on their own may have up to two other persons who are not occupants present at the occupant's private residence or vacation accommodation for a social purpose, if the other persons are individuals with whom the occupant regularly interacts.
6. Despite sections 1, 3 and 4, if the two persons referred to in section 5 regularly interact with one another, as well as with the occupant, they may be present for social

- purposes at the same time in the private residence or vacation accommodation of the occupant.
7. Despite sections 1, 3 and 4, a person who lives on their own may be present for social purposes at one private residence or vacation accommodation with more than one occupant, if the person regularly interacts with the occupants of the private residence or vacation accommodation.
 8. A person may host, and a person may attend, an event with up to ten people present, including occupants and any event staff, which is held outside a private residence, including on a deck or a patio, if the following conditions are met:
 - a. there is sufficient space available to permit every person present to maintain a distance of two metres from one another;
 - b. the persons present maintain a distance of two metres from one another when standing or sitting, unless they reside together;
 - c. a person who leaves an event must not be replaced by another person;
 - d. hand sanitation supplies are readily available
 - e. no person who is attending the event and who is not an occupant goes inside the private residence or vacation accommodation, except for the purpose of using the washroom facilities.
 9. No person may host an event described in section 8, unless the conditions in section 8 are met.
 10. No person may attend an event described in section 8, unless the conditions in section 8 are met.
 11. Section 8 does not permit a person to gather outside with different groups of up to ten people.

B. EVENTS

1. No person may permit a place to be used for an event except as provided for in this Order.
2. For certainty, no person may permit a place that is subject to the *Food and Liquor Serving Premises* to be used for an event, including private events, except as provided for in this Order.
3. No person may organize or host an event except as provided for in this Order.

4. No person may be present at an event except as provided for in this Order.
5. Before attending an event, a person must carry out a health check.
6. A person who has not passed the health check must not attend an event.

C. OUTSIDE EVENTS TO WHICH NO OTHER PART APPLIES

1. A person may permit a place, other than a vacation accommodation or a place that is subject to the *Food and Liquor Serving Premises*, to be used for, and a person may attend, an event with up to ten people present, including any event staff, which is held outside, if the following conditions are met
 - a. there is sufficient space available to permit every person present to maintain a distance of two metres from one another;
 - b. the persons present maintain a distance of two metres from one another when standing or sitting, unless they reside together;
 - c. a person who leaves an event must not be replaced by another person;
 - d. hand sanitation supplies are readily available;
 - e. the event does not move into a fully enclosed structure at the place;
2. No person may permit a place to be used for, or host, an event described in section 1, unless the conditions in section 1 are met.
3. No person may attend an event described in section 1, unless the conditions in section 1 are met.
4. This Part does not permit a person to gather outside with different groups of up to ten people.

D. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS, CRITICAL SERVICE MEETINGS, MEALS PROVIDED FOR PEOPLE IN NEED, WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS, FUNERALS AND JEWISH DIVORCE COURT PROCEEDINGS, PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING

1. Subject to the provisions of this Part, a person may permit a place, other than a private residence or vacation accommodation, to be used for, or may organize or host:
 - a. a support group meeting;
 - b. a critical service meeting which cannot be held at the workplace or provided virtually;

- c. a meal provided without charge to people in need;
 - d. a wedding, baptism, funeral or Jewish divorce court proceeding;
 - e. a program for children or youth;
 - f. training, including occupational health, safety or re-hiring training or first aid training which cannot be provided virtually.
2. An owner or organizer must not permit
- a. more than fifty patrons, or the lesser number who can be accommodated safely as provided for in section 8, to be present at a support group meeting, a critical service meeting, a meal provided without charge to people in need, a program for children or youth, occupational training, or an outside funeral which is conducted by a religious body, or
 - b. more than ten patrons, or the lesser number who can be accommodated safely as provided for in section 8, to be present at an outside funeral which is not conducted by a religious body, a funeral which is held indoors whether or not conducted by a religious body, a wedding, baptism or a Jewish divorce court proceeding.
3. A patron must not be present at
- a. a support group meeting, a critical service meeting, a program for children or youth, occupational training, or an outside funeral which is conducted by a religious body, at which there are more than fifty patrons, or the lesser number which can be accommodated safely as provided for in section 8, present, or
 - b. an outside funeral which is not conducted by a religious body, a funeral which is held indoors whether or not conducted by a religious body, a wedding, a baptism or a Jewish divorce court proceeding, at which there are more than ten patrons present, or the lesser number which can be accommodated safely as provided for in section 8.
4. An outdoor funeral which is conducted by a religious body must be conducted in compliance with the provisions of the Variance for Outdoor Worship Services.
5. In this and the following sections, up to and including section 19,

"event" means a support group meeting, a critical service meeting, a meal provided without charge to people in need, a wedding, a baptism, an outside funeral which is not conducted by a religious body, a funeral which is held indoors whether or not it is conducted by a religious

body, a Jewish divorce court proceeding, a program for children or youth or occupational training;

An event may only proceed if the following conditions are met:

- a. there is a COVID-19 safety plan;
- b. there is an organizer;
- c. access to the event is controlled;
- d. there is sufficient space available to permit the patrons to maintain a distance of two metres from one another;
- e. the patrons maintain a distance of two metres from one another when standing or sitting, unless they reside together;
- f. measures are put in place to prevent the congregation of patrons outside the place,
- g. the place is assessed for areas where patrons may congregate, and measures are put in place to avoid congregation;
- h. physical devices, markers or other methods are used to guide and assist patrons in maintaining a distance of two metres from other patrons, if they are not seated;
- i. if there are tables provided for the use of patrons, no more than six patrons are seated at a table, even if they reside together, and there are at least two metres between the backs of the chairs at one table and the backs of the chairs at another table, unless the chairs are separated by a physical barrier;
- j. if there is a leader, presenter, officiant, worship leader, reader or musician, there is a physical barrier between them and other patrons which blocks the transmission of droplets, or there is at least a three metre separation between them and the patrons;
- k. if there is a self-serve food or drink station,
 - i. hand washing facilities or alcohol-based sanitizers are within easy reach of the station;
 - ii. signs reminding patrons to wash or sanitize their hands before touching self-serve food, drink or other items, and to maintain a two metre distance from other patrons, are posted at the self-serve station; and
 - iii. high touch surfaces at the station, and utensils that are used for self-serve, are frequently cleaned and sanitized;
- l. hand sanitation supplies are readily available to patrons;

- m. washroom facilities with running water, soap and paper towels for hand washing and drying purposes, or hand sanitation supplies, are available;
 - n. no person is present as a spectator at a program for children or youth, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a child or youth who is a participant in the program for children or youth.
6. No person may be present as a spectator at a program for children or youth, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a child or youth who is a participant in the program for children or youth.
 7. For certainty, a performance, recital or demonstration by children or youth, who are participating in a program for children or youth, may only be viewed virtually and not in person.
 8. Subject to the maximum numbers in section 2, the owner of a place in which an event is to be held must calculate the maximum number of patrons who can be accommodated safely during the event taking into consideration the requirements of this Part, and must document this number in the COVID-19 safety plan.
 9. The organizer must monitor the number of patrons present and ensure that the number of patrons present does not exceed the maximum number documented in the COVID-19 safety plan.
 10. If an event is in a part of a place which is completely separated from the rest of the place, and which has its own entrance and washrooms, there may be additional patrons present in other parts of the place who are not attending the event, if the total number of patrons present in the place does not exceed the maximum number of patrons permitted to be present in the place under the COVID-19 safety plan. Patrons attending an event in part of a place must not have contact with patrons in another part of the place who are not attending the event.
 11. If there are one or more separate premises in a place, there may be an event in each of the premises, as long as
 - a. patrons attending an event do not have contact with patrons attending an event in other premises in the place, or with individuals who are in the place but not in the premises in which the event is being held;
 - b. there is a separate entrance to each of the premises in which an event is being held; and
 - c. there are separate washrooms for each of the premises.
 12. During an event, a patron who leaves the place in which an event is being held must not be replaced by another patron.

13. Following an event, and during an appropriate interval of time before another event commences, an owner must ensure that:
 - a. the place is cleaned, sanitized and ventilated while there are no patrons present;
 - b. there is a sufficient period of time between events to permit a place to be cleaned, sanitized and ventilated without any patrons being present, and patrons leaving one event, do not have contact with patrons arriving for a subsequent event.
14. Patrons must disperse immediately after an event and must not congregate with patrons who are leaving the event or arriving for a subsequent event.
15. The organizer must ensure that the COVID-19 safety plan is complied with and that the conditions and requirements in sections 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 18 are met.
16. The organizer must
 - a. collect the first and last names and telephone number, or email address, of every patron who attends an event;
 - b. retain this information for thirty days, in case there is a need for contact tracing on the part of the medical health officer, in which case the information must be provided to the medical health officer; and
 - c. destroy the information after thirty days.
17. If the organizer is not the owner of the place in which the event is held, the owner must be satisfied that the organizer is aware of the conditions and requirements in sections 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18 and has the capacity to fulfill them.
18. Patrons must not congregate and must comply with
 - a. the limitation on the number of patrons permitted in a place at the event which they are attending;
 - b. the distancing and other requirements in sections 4 (e) and (i), and section 13; and
 - c. a request to provide the information required in section 15.
19. For certainty, no person may permit a place to be used for, or organize or host, or be present at an indoor reception or gathering, whether formal or informal, either before or after a wedding, baptism, funeral or Jewish divorce court proceeding, unless the people present all reside in the same private residence.

E. SPORT FOR CHILDREN OR YOUTH

1. A person may permit a place, other than a private residence or vacation accommodation, to be used for, or may provide, or may participate in sport for children or youth, if the following conditions are met:
 - a. participants maintain a physical distance of three metres from one another and do not engage in handshaking, high fives, hugging or similar behaviour;
 - b. the focus is on activities that have a low risk of COVID-19 virus transmission;
 - c. no person is present as a spectator, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a child or youth who is a participant.
2. No person may permit a place to be used for, may provide, or may participate in sport for children or youth, unless the conditions in section 1 are met.
3. No person may be present as a spectator at sport for children or youth, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a participant.

F. VARSITY SPORT

1. A person may permit a place, other than a private residence or vacation accommodation, to be used for, or may provide, or may participate in varsity sport, if the following conditions are met:
 - a. the participants are members of a varsity sport team;
 - b. participants maintain a physical distance of three metres from one another when engaged in sport and do not engage in handshaking, high fives, hugging or similar behaviour;
 - c. the focus is on activities that have a low risk of COVID-19 virus transmission;
 - d. no person is present as a spectator, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a participant;
 - e. a participant only trains or practices with the post-secondary institution with which the participant is enrolled, or with respect to which the participant is a confirmed recruit, as permitted by and in accordance with the requirements of the body which governs the varsity sport.
2. No person may permit a place be used for, or may provide, or may participate in varsity sport, unless the conditions in section 1 are met.

3. No person may be present as a spectator at varsity sport, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a participant.

G. GROUP SPORT

1. A person may permit a place, other than a private residence or vacation accommodation, to be used for, or may provide, or may participate in group sport, if the following conditions are met:
 - a. if the group sport is indoors, only two persons participate;
 - b. if the group sport is outdoors, only ten persons participate;
 - c. the participants maintain a distance of three metres from one another while engaged in the group sport, unless the participants reside in the same private residence;
 - d. there are no spectators, unless the presence of a spectator is necessary in order to provide care to a participant
2. No person may permit a place be used for, or may provide, or may participate in group sport, unless the conditions in section 1 are met.
3. No person may be present as a spectator at group sport, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a participant.

H. TRAVEL FOR SPORT

1. No person may travel for children and youth sport or group sport, including for training, practice, games or tournaments.
2. Section 1 does not apply to travel by a person to the person's home club sports facility at which the person regularly trains or practices.
3. Despite section 2, a person to whom section 2 applies may not travel to the person's home club sports facility in contravention of an order restricting travel within the Province made under the authority of the *Emergency Program Act*.

I. HIGH-PERFORMANCE ATHLETES

1. Parts, E, F, G, and H do not apply to high-performance athletes.
2. A person who is a high-performance athlete who was training in the Province as of November 19, 2020 may train, practice, compete and travel for that purpose if the person follows the COVID-19 safety protocols of the provincial or national sports organization with which the person is affiliated.

3. Despite section 2, a person to whom section 2 applies may not travel for the purpose of training, practising or competing in contravention of an order restricting travel within the Province made under the authority of the *Emergency Program Act*.

J. EXERCISE

In this Part

“individual exercise” means an exercise routine developed for the use of a particular person which only involves one participant and is not carried out in concert with another person, or led by an instructor;

“one on one exercise with a trainer” means an exercise routine developed for the use of a particular person which is carried under the direction of a trainer, and which only involves one participant and is not carried out in concert with another participant.

1. A gym, fitness centre, exercise studio, dance studio, recreation centre, post-secondary institution exercise or gym facility, or other place providing similar services (hereinafter referred to as “exercise”), but not including rehabilitation services provided by a health care provider, may only provide
 - a. virtual exercise,
 - b. individual exercise indoors,
 - c. one on one exercise with a trainer indoors, or
 - d. individual exercise, one on one exercise with a trainer, or group exercise for up to ten participants, outdoors.
2. No person may permit a place to be used for exercise except as permitted in section 1.
3. No person may provide exercise except as permitted in section 1.
4. No person may participate in exercise except as permitted in section 1.
5. A person who provides individual exercise indoors, or one on one exercise with a trainer indoors, must implement and comply with the Indoor Exercise Requirements, as amended from time to time, posted on my website.
6. A person who participates in individual exercise indoors, or one on one exercise with a trainer indoors, must comply with the Indoor Exercise Requirements, as amended from time to time, posted on my website.
7. A person who provides individual exercise outdoors, or one on one exercise with a trainer outdoors, must comply with the following conditions:

- a. ensure that a participant maintains a distance of two metres from other persons who are exercising outdoors;
 - b. ensure that a participant does not congregate with other persons who are exercising outdoors, before, during or after exercising;
 - c. clean and disinfect shared equipment between each use.
8. A person who participates in individual exercise outdoors, or one on one exercise with a trainer outdoors, must
 - a. maintain a distance of two metres from other persons who are exercising outdoors,
 - b. not congregate with other persons who are exercising outdoors, before, during or after exercising.
9. A person who provides outdoor group exercise must comply with the following conditions:
 - a. ensure that the participants maintain a distance of two metres from other participants when exercising,
 - b. ensure that the participants do not congregate with other participants, before, during or after exercising.
 - c. clean and disinfect shared equipment between each use
 - d. not permit anyone to be present as a spectator, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a participant.
10. A person who participates in outdoor group exercise must
 - a. maintain a distance of two metres from other participants, and
 - b. not congregate with other participants, before, during or after exercising
11. No person who is participating in exercise outdoors, other than an owner, operator or member of staff, may enter a place at which exercise is provided, except to use washroom facilities.
12. No person may permit a place to be used for, may provide, or may participate in exercise indoors, unless the Indoor Exercise Requirements are complied with.
13. No person may permit a place to be used for, may provide, or may participate in exercise outdoors, unless the conditions which apply to exercise outside in this Part are met.
14. No person may be present as a spectator at exercise, unless the presence of the person is necessary in order to provide care to a participant.

K. DRIVE-THROUGH, DRIVE-IN AND DRIVE-BY EVENTS

1. A person may permit a place, other than a private residence or vacation accommodation, to be used for, or may provide, a drive-through event, including to view a display or performance, or to drop off or pick up items, including food, toys, books or diplomas if the following conditions are met:
 - a. traffic moves in one direction;
 - b. the entrance and exit are clearly marked and controlled;
 - c. patrons stay in their vehicles except to drop off or pick up items and return to their vehicles without delay;
 - d. patrons, staff and volunteers maintain a two metre distance from one another or physical barriers are in place;
 - e. patrons do not congregate together in one spot;
 - f. the organizer monitors the actions of patrons to ensure that
 - i. they only leave their vehicles to drop off items;
 - ii. they return to their vehicles immediately after dropping off items; and
 - iii. they comply with the physical distancing requirement when out of their vehicles.
2. A person may permit a place, other than a private residence or vacation accommodation, to be used for, or may provide, a drive-in event, if the following conditions are met:
 - a. patrons only attend in a vehicle;
 - b. no more than fifty vehicles are present at the drive-in;
 - c. patrons remain in their vehicles except to use washroom facilities, and when outside their vehicles for this purpose they maintain a distance of two metres from other patrons and staff;
 - d. the entrance and exit to the drive-in are clearly marked and controlled and traffic moves in only one direction;

- e. no food or drink is sold;
 - f. the organizer monitors the actions of patrons to ensure that
 - i. they remain in their vehicles except to use washroom facilities; and
 - ii. comply with the physical distancing requirement if outside their vehicle;
 - g. the organizer
 - i. collects the first and last name and telephone number or email address of every driver of a vehicle who attends an event;
 - ii. retains this information for thirty days, in case there is a need for contact tracing on the part of the medical health officer, in which case the information must be provided to the medical health officer; and
 - iii. destroys the information after thirty days.
3. A person may organize, participate in or be a spectator at a drive- by event for the purpose of celebrating a special occasion, if the following conditions are met:
- a. the participants remain in their vehicles;
 - b. the spectators maintain a two metre distance from one another, unless they reside in the same private residence;
4. No person may permit a place to be used for, or may provide, or be a patron, participant or spectator at a drive-through, drive -in or drive-by event, unless the conditions in this Part are met.

L. PERIMETER SEATING VEHICLES AND PERIMETER SEATING BUSES

In this Part

“**accommodated safely**” means that each passenger is seated at least two metres away from every other passenger, except another passenger with whom the passenger resides in the same private residence.

1. No person may operate, or permit to be operated, a perimeter seating vehicle or a perimeter seating bus in the affected area between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM, except for the purpose of maintenance, fueling or a related purpose.
2. No person may operate, or permit to be operated, a perimeter seating vehicle or a perimeter seating bus in the affected area between the hours of 6:00 AM and 11:00 PM
 - a. for a purpose other than
 - i. maintenance, fueling or a related purpose; or
 - ii. transport; or
 - iii. with more passengers than can be accommodated safely
3. No person may be a passenger between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM.
4. No person may be a passenger between the hours of 6:00 AM and 11:00 PM
 - a. for a purpose other than transport; or
 - b. if there are more passengers than can be accommodated safely.

M. RETAIL BUSINESSES

In this Part

“accommodated safely” means that in the part of the place to which the public has access, there are five square metres of unencumbered space available for each person present, including patrons and staff members.

1. A person may permit a place other than a residence or vacation accommodation to be used for a retail business to which the public has access, and a person may be present in a retail business, if the following conditions are met:
 - a. The owner must calculate the maximum number of patrons who can be accommodated safely and must document this number in the COVID-19 safety plan;
 - b. Despite section 1. a., if the part of the place to which the public has access consists of less than five square metres of unencumbered space, the maximum number of patrons who can be accommodated safely is one, and the owner must document this number in the COVID-19 safety plan;

- c. The owner must ensure that the number of patrons present does not exceed the maximum number who can be accommodated safely, as documented in the COVID-19 safety plan;
 - d. A person must not enter a retail business if advised by the owner or a staff member that the person cannot be accommodated safely;
 - e. A patron must leave a retail business if requested to do so by the owner or a staff member, on the basis that the person cannot be accommodated safely;
 - f. An owner must take measures, where practical, such as the placement of two metre distance indicators and the posting or erection of signs, to guide patrons who are waiting to enter a retail business, or waiting for any other purpose inside a retail business, in maintaining a two metre distance from other patrons in order to prevent the congregation of patrons in one spot;
 - g. Where practical, an owner must clearly mark entrances and exits and use one-way signage or arrows on the floor to guide patrons in moving in one direction;
 - h. Where practical, an owner must post or erect signs advising patrons to move in one direction, keep moving, maintain a distance of two metres from other patrons, avoid congregation, and avoid congestion at the end of aisles; and
 - i. An owner must make hand sanitation options readily available for patrons.
2. A person must not permit a place to be used, or use a place for, a retail business unless the conditions in this Part are met.
 3. No person may be present as a patron in a retail business, unless the conditions in this Part are met.

N. EPISODIC MARKETS

In this Part

“accommodated safely” means that there are five square metres of unencumbered space available for each person present, including patrons and vendors.

1. A person may permit a place, other than a private residence or vacation accommodation, to be used for, or may manage, an episodic market, subject to the conditions in this part.

2. The owner of a place at which an indoor episodic market is to be held must calculate the maximum number of patrons who can be accommodated safely, and must document this number in the COVID-19 safety plan.
3. A person must not enter an indoor episodic market if advised by the owner, manager or a staff member that the person cannot be accommodated safely.
4. A person must leave an indoor episodic market if advised by the owner, manager or a staff member that the person cannot be accommodated safely.
5. A manager of an indoor episodic market must
 - a. monitor the number of patrons present and ensure that the number of patrons present does not exceed the maximum number documented in the COVID-19 safety plan;
 - b. take measures, such as the placement of two metre distance indicators, the posting or erection of signs, or the use of arrows or markers on the floor, to guide patrons in maintaining a two metre distance from other patrons when waiting to enter a market and in areas where line-ups may occur, such as washrooms;
 - c. post or erect signs advising patrons to move in one direction, keep moving, maintain a distance of two metres from other patrons, and not congregate in one spot;
 - d. arrange the placement of vendors' booths two metres apart, or install physical barriers between booths which block the transmission of droplets between vendors;
 - e. arrange the placement of vendors' booths in such a way as to facilitate the movement of patrons in one direction;
 - f. ensure that there is a distance of two metres between vendors and patrons or install physical barriers between vendors and patrons which block the transmission of droplets, or, if neither of the foregoing is practical, require vendors to wear a face covering;
 - g. provide facilities with running water, soap and paper towels for hand washing and drying purposes or provide hand sanitation supplies;

- h. place hand sanitation supplies in spots that are readily available to patrons and post or erect signs reminding patrons to regularly wash their hands or use hand sanitizer;
 - i. if there are tables with chairs, arrange the tables and chairs so that there are two metres between the patrons seated at one table and the patrons seated at another table;
 - j. post or erect signs advising that there must be no more than six patrons seated at a table;
 - k. ensure that each day a vendor participates in an episodic market the vendor has carried out a health check and confirmed with the manager that the vendor has passed the health check;
 - l. if a manager is not satisfied that a vendor has carried out and passed the daily health check, the manager must not permit the vendor to be present at the episodic market;
 - m. not permit a product other than food for human consumption, flowers, plants, seed and compost to be sold;
 - n. not permit a service to be sold or provided.
6. The manager of an outdoor episodic market must take steps to avoid the market becoming crowded, and for this purpose must
- a. control the number of patrons present in order to ensure that there is sufficient space available to enable patrons to maintain a distance of two metres from other patrons at all times;
 - b. arrange the layout of the market so as to prevent the congregation of patrons;
 - c. arrange the placement of vendors' booths so that they are two metres apart ,or install physical barriers between booths which block the transmission of droplets between vendors;
 - d. arrange the placement of vendors' booths in such a way as to facilitate the movement of patrons in one direction;

- e. either ensure that there is a distance of two metres between vendors and patrons, or install physical barriers between vendors and patrons which block the transmission of droplets, or, if neither of the foregoing is practical, require vendors to wear a face covering;
 - f. provide facilities with running water, soap and paper towels for hand washing and drying purposes or provide hand sanitation supplies;
 - g. place hand sanitation supplies in spots that are readily available to patrons and post or erect signs reminding patrons to regularly wash their hands or use hand sanitizer;
 - h. if there are picnic tables or tables with chairs, arrange the picnic tables, or the tables and chairs, so that there are two metres between the patrons seated at one table and the patrons seated at another table;
 - i. post or erect signs advising that there must be no more than six patrons seated at a table;
 - j. ensure that each day a vendor participates in an episodic market the vendor has carried out a health check and confirmed with the manager that the vendor has passed the health check;
 - k. if a manager is not satisfied that a vendor has carried out and passed the daily health check, the manager must not permit the vendor to be present at the episodic market;
 - l. not permit a vendor to sell or provide a personal service.
7. If the manager is not the owner of the place at which an episodic market is held, the owner must be satisfied that the manager is aware of the requirements in the COVID-19 safety plan and section 5 or 6, as applicable, and has the capacity to fulfill them.
 8. A vendor at an indoor episodic market may only sell food for human consumption, flowers, plants, seeds or compost.
 9. A vendor at an outdoor episodic market may sell food, non-food products, or services other than personal services., .
 10. A vendor must do a health check before being present at an episodic market and must confirm with the manager that the vendor has passed the daily health check.

11. A vendor who has not done a health check, or not confirmed with the manager that the vendor has passed a health check, or who has not passed a health check, must not be present at an episodic market.
12. A vendor must either ensure that there is a distance of two metres between the vendor and patrons, or that there is a physical barrier between the vendor and patrons which blocks the transmission of droplets, or, if this is not practical, wear a face covering.
13. A vendor who sells food for human consumption must comply with the following requirements:
 - a. not provide samples of food for tasting; and
 - b. only sell food prepared at an episodic market in single-use containers or dishes.
14. A vendor who is a manufacturer of liquor with an on-site retail endorsement on their liquor licence, must comply with the following requirements:
 - a. not provide samples of products for tasting; and
 - b. only sell products in sealed retail containers, such as bottles, cartons, boxes and cans.
15. Despite sections 5 (f), 6 (b) and 12, a vendor is not required to wear a face covering if any of the following applies:
 - a. the vendor is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person;
 - b. the vendor is unable to wear a face covering because of
 - i. a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or
 - ii. a physical, cognitive or mental impairment;
 - c. the face covering is removed temporarily for the purpose of identifying the vendor;
 - d. the face covering is removed temporarily to communicate with a person with a disability or diverse ability, where visual cues, facial expressions or lip reading or lip movements are important;
 - e. the vendor is eating or drinking and is not involved in a transaction with a patron.

16. A patron must

- a. comply with sections 3 and 4 and signs, directions or measures intended to promote physical distancing and to prevent congregation;
- b. not sit at a table with more than 5 other patrons.

17. No person may permit a place to be used for, or use a place for, or be a patron at, an episodic market unless the conditions in this Part are met.

O. RELATED MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS ORDERS

Recognizing that the risk differs in different regions of the province and that medical health officers are in the best position to assess local circumstances and to determine whether additional or more restrictive steps need to be taken to reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19, **I FURTHER ORDER:**

1. A medical health officer may issue an order further to this Order for the purpose of having the provisions of the order incorporated into this Order. Such an order may add further prohibitions, or impose more restrictive limitations or conditions in the whole or part of the geographic area of the province for which the medical health officer is designated and, subject to section 2, the provisions of the order are incorporated into this Order when posted on my website. For certainty, a contravention of an order of a medical health officer issued further to this Order and posted on my website is a contravention of this Order.
2. While it is in force, a provision in an order made by a medical health officer further to this Order and posted on my website, which adds further prohibitions or imposes more restrictive limitations or requirements than this Order, applies in the whole or part of the geographic area of the province for which the medical health officer is designated, despite the provisions of this Order.

This Order does not have an expiration date.

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

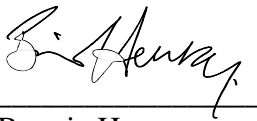
You are required under section 42 of the *Public Health Act* to comply with this Order. Failure to comply with this Order is an offence under section 99 (1) (k) of the *Public Health Act*.

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

You may contact me at:

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

DATED THIS: 7th day of May, 2021

SIGNED: 

Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

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

Enclosure: Excerpts of the *Public Health Act*.

ENCLOSURE

Excerpts of the *Public Health Act* [SBC 2008] c. 28

Definitions

1 In this Act:

"health hazard" means

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

When orders respecting health hazards and contraventions may be made

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

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

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

General powers respecting health hazards and contraventions

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

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

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

- (a) a person whose action or omission
 - (i) is causing or has caused a health hazard, or
 - (ii) is not in compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it, or a term or condition of the person's licence or permit;
- (b) a person who has custody or control of a thing, or control of a condition, that
 - (i) is a health hazard or is causing or has caused a health hazard, or
 - (ii) is not in compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it, or a term or condition of the person's licence or permit;
- (c) the owner or occupier of a place where
 - (i) a health hazard is located, or
 - (ii) an activity is occurring that is not in compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it, or a term or condition of the licence or permit of the person doing the activity.

Specific powers respecting health hazards and contraventions

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

- (a) if the circumstances described in section 30 [*when orders respecting health hazards and contraventions may be made*] apply, and
- (b) for the purposes set out in section 31 (1) [*general powers respecting health hazards and contraventions*].

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

- (a) have a thing examined, disinfected, decontaminated, altered or destroyed, including
 - (i) by a specified person, or under the supervision or instructions of a specified person,
 - (ii) moving the thing to a specified place, and
 - (iii) taking samples of the thing, or permitting samples of the thing to be taken;
- (b) in respect of a place,
 - (i) leave the place,
 - (ii) not enter the place,
 - (iii) do specific work, including removing or altering things found in the place, and altering or locking the place to restrict or prevent entry to the place,
 - (iv) neither deal with a thing in or on the place nor dispose of a thing from the place, or deal with or dispose of the thing only in accordance with a specified procedure, and
 - (v) if the person has control of the place, assist in evacuating the place or examining persons found in the place, or taking preventive measures in respect of the place or persons found in the place;
- (c) stop operating, or not operate, a thing;
- (d) keep a thing in a specified place or in accordance with a specified procedure;
- (e) prevent persons from accessing a thing;
- (f) not dispose of, alter or destroy a thing, or dispose of, alter or destroy a thing only in accordance with a specified procedure;
- (g) provide to the health officer or a specified person information, records, samples or other matters relevant to a thing's possible infection with an infectious agent or contamination with a hazardous agent, including information respecting persons who may have been exposed to an infectious agent or hazardous agent by the thing;
- (h) wear a type of clothing or personal protective equipment, or change, remove or alter clothing or personal protective equipment, to protect the health and safety of persons;

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

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

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

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

(k) take a prescribed action.

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

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

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

General emergency powers

54 (1) A health officer may, in an emergency, do one or more of the following:

(h) not reconsider an order under section 43 [reconsideration of orders], not review an order under section 44 [review of orders] or not reassess an order under section 45 [mandatory reassessment of orders];

(2) An order that may be made under this Part may be made in respect of a class of persons or things, and may make different requirements for different persons or things or classes of persons or things or for different geographic areas.

Offences

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

...

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