

Motion Picture Production in Step 3 of B.C.'s Restart Plan

As the province of British Columbia moves into Step 3 of its restart plan on July 1st, 2021, the requirement for employers to develop and implement a COVID-19 Safety Plan will no longer be in place, but they will need to transition to a [Communicable Disease Prevention](#) strategy. What does all this mean?

- Communicable disease prevention focuses on basic risk reduction principles to reduce the risk of workplace transmission of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19 and seasonal flu.
- The COVID-19 specific controls of the COVID-19 Safety Plan will no longer be required outside of **instances of elevated risk**.
 - ★ Specific controls may include occupancy limits, physical distancing guidelines, and mask wearing restrictions* (see page 2 for mask wearing information).
 - ★ **Instances of elevated risk** could include seasonal flu periods, regional “hot spots” or exposure related to interactions with non-vaccinated populations.
- Employers must ensure that fundamental measures of communicable disease prevention are in place at their workplace, including appropriate handwashing and personal hygiene practices, appropriate ventilation, and staying home when sick.
 - ★ These controls could be carried-over from existing COVID-19 Safety Plans.
- Employers must also be prepared to implement or maintain additional measures at times when the risk of communicable disease in their region or workplace is elevated, as advised, and directed by public health or regional health authorities.
 - ★ These additional measures are also items that could be carried-over from existing COVID-19 Safety Plans, such as working remotely, having cohorts or work zones,

Additionally, the Provincial Health Officer is recommending that “employers maintain some of their current COVID-19 Safety Plan protocols, specifically those that do not negatively impact business operations.”

A communicable disease prevention strategy:

- **does not have to be written.**
- **does not have to be posted.**
- **does not have to be approved by WorkSafeBC.**

However, it is considered best practice to include a policy on preventing communicable disease in an employer’s occupational health and safety program.

What employers do need to do is make sure the workers they employ know about the safety measures in place specific to communicable disease prevention. Employers also need to support those safety measures. This communication and support should include:

- Instructing workers to not come to work if they are sick.
- Healthy hand hygiene practices, including hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes. Providing hand sanitization stations where needed.

- The importance of maintaining a clean work environment.
- Ensuring functional and properly maintained ventilation.
- Supporting workers in receiving vaccinations for vaccine-preventable conditions to the extent that you are able. This also includes seasonal flu shots.

Moving to Step 3 of B.C.'s restart plan will ease many COVID-19 restrictions on the worksite. However, it is important to remain diligent in minimizing the risk of exposure to all communicable diseases.

For motion picture, television, and commercial production, Actsafe recommends the following measures to help navigate through this next phase of returning to operations:

- Although not required, it is recommended that employers develop a communicable disease prevention policy as part of their occupational health and safety program. Need help with this? Contact motionpicturesafety@actsafe.ca and speak to our safety advisors.
- *Mask wearing will move from mandatory in indoor public spaces to recommended in indoor public spaces for all people that are not fully vaccinated (14 days after receiving second shot). This change in policy will also apply to worksites. However, it is recommended that a mask-wearing policy be continued on motion picture production worksites until Phase 4 (September 2021).
- Keep hygiene and cleaning protocols from your COVID-19 Safety Plan in place for Phase 3.
- Ensure your workplaces have appropriate ventilation in place.
- In the middle of production when Step 3 starts? To avoid confusion amongst your crew and having to adapt to new policies, it is advised that productions **do not** abandon their COVID-19 Safety Plans. Maintain current controls until the end of production.
- Consult with local health authorities for guidance when filming in other jurisdictions. Be aware of potential COVID-19 "hot spots" that will require additional communicable disease prevention measures.

For additional guidance on what the impact of moving to Step 3 of the B.C. Restart Plan will be on the motion picture, television, and commercial production industry, please contact Actsafe's motion picture safety team at motionpicturesafety@actsafe.ca.

For information on [communicable disease prevention](#) on worksites in British Columbia, visit WorkSafeBC's [webpage](#).



Follow guidelines



Stay home if sick



Clean your hands



Respect personal space



Consider other people's situation