Public Health Update

**July 1, 2021**

**Summary:**

With the provincial vaccination efforts, more than 76% of people 12 years and older have at last their first dose of the vaccine, and active case number is also declining. BC is transitioning into Step 3 of the reopening plan, starting on Thursday, July 1st, 2021.

More restrictions are being lifted. Some important changes include:

* Mask mandates are lifted for public indoor areas, but still **recommended** for people who are not fully vaccinated.
* No limits on indoor or outdoor personal gatherings.
* Organized gatherings can operate with increased capacity. No limits on religious or worship services.
* Increased capacity for sports and exercise, and spectators.
* Canada-wide recreational travel is allowed.
* Continue to return to work. Conferences and meetings are allowed.

**Detailed information:**

* **Face mask mandate lifted** 
  + Face masks are no longer mandatory for public indoor spaces, such as malls, restaurants and public transit.
  + However, face coverings are the last layer of protection against infection. It is strongly recommended for those who are not fully vaccinated to still wear face covering.
    - You are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after you have received your second COVID-19 vaccine. This is because your immune system will take time to develop protective response against the infection after vaccination.
* **Personal gatherings** 
  + Indoor and outdoor personal gatherings can return to normal. There is no limit on the amount of people.
  + Sleepovers and playdates are allowed to happen.
* **Organized gatherings**
  + Indoor organized gatherings can have up to 50 people, or 50% capacity, whichever is greater.
  + Outdoor organized gatherings can have 5,000 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater.
  + No capacity limits or restrictions on religious gatherings and worship services.
  + Fairs, festivals, and trade shows can return to normal with a Communicable Disease Plan.
* **Restaurant, bars and pubs** 
  + No group limits for indoor and outdoor dining, events allowed.
  + Return to normal liquor service hours.
  + No socializing between tables.
* **Nightclub** 
  + Up to 10 people seated at a table, tables 2 metres apart.
  + No dancing, no socializing between tables.
* **Casinos**
  + Reduced capacity with gaming stations at 50% capacity.
* **Sports and exercise** 
  + All indoor fitness classes are allowed normal capacity.
  + Gyms and recreation facilities are allowed normal capacity.
  + Outdoor sports can have 5,000 spectators or 50% capacity, whichever is greater.
  + Indoor sports can have 50 spectators or 50% capacity, whichever is greater.
* **Travel** 
  + Canada-wide recreational travel is allowed.
* **Offices and workplaces** 
  + Continue return to work.
  + Seminars and bigger meetings can happen.
  + Workplaces will need a Communicable Disease Plan going forward.

The final phase of the restart plan is hopefully by September 7th. We are on the right track now to enjoy the summer of hope and healing from the pandemic.

Getting vaccinated helps protect you and your family, and makes reopening safe for everyone. If you are eligible to get your first or second dose of the vaccine, it is highly recommended you do so at the earliest date available to you. Register and book an appointment online or call 1-833-838-2323. You can also reach out to your CCHBs for assistance.

If you or anyone in your family feels sick, stay home and get tested immediately.