



COVID-19 INFORMATION MEMO

6 August 2020

Public Health Official Updates

In the past few weeks, our province has seen clusters of COVID-19 outbreaks, due to large parties and gatherings. This means that the risk of contracting the virus is still present in our day-to-day lives. As restrictions ease with phase 3 of the reopening plan, it is even more important that individuals practice safety measures and follow guidelines to protect the health of our communities. To do this, you should:

1. B.C. Transit mandates face mask-wearing starting August 24th.
2. Avoid parties and large gatherings. Keep indoor gatherings small. Only get together with a maximum of 6 people who are not your household members.
3. Use protective measures while in public outdoor spaces.
4. Practice physical distancing, hand washing, and wearing masks in public indoor spaces.

Remember: stay home if you are sick, wash your hands regularly, stay 2m apart when in public, and wear a face mask where you cannot stay 2m apart.

More Detailed Information

1. B.C. Transit mandates face mask-wearing starting August 24th

- Starting Aug. 24, TransLink and BC Transit will mandate face masks on public transit across the province.
- This policy will apply to anyone riding the bus, SkyTrain, or SeaBus in Metro Vancouver, and on buses operated by BC transit outside of the region.
- The only exemption for this policy is for children under the age of 5, and anyone who can't wear a face mask due to a medical condition.

2. Avoid parties and large gatherings

Cases of COVID-19 are linked to private parties in the Metro Vancouver area, similar to the outbreak in Kelowna that are connected to private gatherings.

- Avoid large gatherings.
- Avoid going to parties, even if they are small. Overlapping social groups at different parties may contribute to the spread of the virus.

- Gather with a maximum of 6 people who are not your household members.
 - Host these gatherings outdoor.
 - Maintain physical distancing. Do not share hugs or kisses with people outside your household.
 - Use disposable dishes and cutlery. Encourage people to bring their own food. Avoid sharing food, utensils, or other personal items.
 - Promote hand hygiene by providing: liquid soap, no-touch waste containers, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

3. Use protective measures while in public outdoor spaces

It is important to use protective measures while in public outdoor spaces. These include areas like trails, beaches, campgrounds, parks, playgrounds, and dog parks.

Measures you can take outdoors include:

- Avoid large groups or crowding at beaches, picnic areas, lookout points, trail entrance/exits.
- Wash and sanitize your hands after touching common surfaces, such as park benches, public washrooms, and playground equipment.
- Play low-contact recreational sports where you can keep a 2-metre distance from other players.
- Carry a water bottle and refreshment, and avoid using public drinking fountains.
- Avoid sharing items with people who don't live with you or aren't in your small and consistent social circle.

4. Practice safety measures in public indoor spaces

Many restaurants are opening up for indoor dining. To protect yourself and others, you should know the risks and options before dining inside.

- Use takeout, or eat outside at patio seating/standing tables, if possible.
- Follow the guideline of sitting with 6 people, and do NOT table-hop.
- Don't share drinks or utensils.
- Clean your hands after touching items like menus, chairs, tables, condiment bottles, and payment machines.
- Wear a mask or face covering when not seated at your table.
- Avoid self-serve food like buffets and drink dispensers.
- Limit alcohol consumption so you're able to make good decisions and practice safety measures.

In addition to safety measures for all public spaces, take additional measures when running errands:

- Certain establishments, such as Walmart Canada and Costco, require mask-wearing inside. Even without these policies, you should still wear a mask to these indoor spaces.
- Limit the number of people you bring with you.

- Limit what you touch by only picking up items you plan on purchasing.
- Follow floor markings and other physical distancing visual cues when walking.
- Try not to take off your mask between stops.

Our province has been able to keep the number of transmission events low because of the measures we have taken. We need to remain calm, stay vigilant, and follow the guidelines as our province continues to reopen safely.