



INDUSTRY

# SAFETY ALERT

## November COVID-19 Restrictions

With the current spike in COVID-19 cases throughout BC, the Public Health Authority announced on November 19<sup>th</sup> that [new province-wide restrictions](#) will be implemented to help reduce the spread of the virus effective from midnight, November 19 to midnight, December 7, 2020. The new restrictions are as follows:

**Social Gatherings and Events** - No social gatherings of **any size** with anyone other than your household or core bubble. All events and community-based gatherings are suspended. Do not socialize with people outside of your immediate household.

**Group Indoor Physical Activities** - Suspended for the following activities – spin classes, hot yoga, high-intensity interval training (HITT). Updated guidance on other physical activities such as dance studios, martial arts and cheerleading are under review. Individual and personal training remain open but must follow a strict COVID-19 Safety Plan.

**Sports Games, Competitions and Practices** - Games, competitions and practices can continue with no spectators and no travel.

**Travel advisory** - At this time, all non-essential travel should be avoided. This includes travel into and out of BC and between regions of the province.

**Mask requirements** - Masks are now required for everyone in all public indoor settings and workplaces. People who cannot put on or remove a mask on their own are exempt.

**Enforcement** - During a public health emergency under the Public Health Act, the PHO can make orders as needed. You are expected to follow the orders. Under the Government's Emergency Program Act, some orders can be enforced by police or other compliance and enforcement officials. People who don't follow these orders could be fined.

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### WORKPLACE GUIDELINES – What Do These Restrictions Mean for BC Forestry?

Forestry work is still considered an essential service and will continue.

Employers must review and update their COVID-19 Safety Plan where necessary, remind employees to monitor themselves daily and to always stay home if they have [symptoms](#).

Employers must make every effort to provide work from home options if possible.



BC Forest Safety

Main Office: 420 Albert Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2V7  
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- Workplaces must ensure that all workers and customers maintain appropriate physical distance and extra care should be taken in small office spaces, break rooms and kitchens
- [Review the WorkSafeBC COVID-19 Safety Plan documentation](#)

**Daily screening** - A daily screening should already be included in every business's existing COVID-19 Safety Plan.

**Masks at Workplaces** - Employers are expected to enforce the mandatory mask policy with both employees and customers. A customer can be refused entry or service if they do not wear a mask.

Masks are required in all workplaces for shared work areas and areas where physical distancing cannot be maintained. This includes:

- Elevators
- Hallways
- Break rooms
- Kitchens
- Customer counters

**Workplace Enforcement** - The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) is requesting all worksites to review their COVID-19 Safety Plans and protocols to make sure they are effective. WorkSafeBC will be working with the PHO to enforce COVID-19 protocols at worksites. In addition to compliance activities by WorkSafeBC, an Environmental Health Officers team will focus on workplaces in the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health regions to ensure COVID-19 Safety Plan compliance and enable rapid response and action.

**COVID-19 Safety Plans** - As an employer, you're required to have a safety plan that outlines the policies, guidelines and procedures you've put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Your plan should be reviewed and, if necessary, updated to ensure it continues to be effective and functioning properly.

## [WorkSafeBC Workplace Resources](#)

- [Mandatory masks](#)
- [Entry-check Poster for Workers](#) (revised)
- [Inspections and Consultations During the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Reviewing and Updating your COVID-19 Safety Plan: A Guide for Employers](#)
- [Worker Health Checks](#)
- [Entry-check Poster for Visitors](#) (revised)

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