

INDUSTRIAL CAMPS ORDER

FROM THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER

Effective April 23, Dr. Bonnie Henry, the BC Public Health Officer, issued an order for Industrial Camps and other worker accommodations. This order applies to employers, camp operators, employees and contractors working in Industrial Camps during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the purposes of the order, industrial camp means land or premises on which an employer, in connection with a logging, sawmill, mining, oil or gas operation, a railway construction project, a cannery, or a similar thing, owns, operates or maintains, or has established, permanent or temporary structures for use, with or without charge, by employees as living quarters....

The order applies to accommodations, worksites and/or vehicles used to transport workers and the vehicles used by workers.

The order sets out specific requirements, responsibilities and definitions for:

- Persons who employ workers in the agricultural, forestry and resource sectors and/or who provide accommodation for them in an industrial camp or other congregate setting including a motel, hotel or tents
- Persons who are appointed as infection prevention and control co-ordinators by employers
- Workers in the agricultural, aquacultural, forestry and resource sectors

It is important to note that the order includes specific requirements for employers, coordinators and workers in addition to requirements under WorkSafeBC's Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.

Important provisions of the order include the delegation of authority and inspectional powers to Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Officers from various Ministries for the purpose of enforcing the order. WorkSafeBC is not included under the specific delegation of authority.

The order also requires employers to arrange for a health officer or a Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Officer to inspect an accommodation **as soon as possible** for camps which are in use and a worksite which is in operation effective April 23, 2020.

In all other cases, the employer must arrange for the inspection before placing workers in accommodation or operating a worksite.



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

INDUSTRIAL CAMPS ORDER FROM THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER

The following information from the Office of the Chief Forester provides direction to employers regarding inspection requirements:

1. In order to begin planting, tree planting contractors must have a COVID-19 Coordinator identified for each area/camp. They will submit an online Attestation Form that confirms that the planting contractor has an Infection Prevention and Control Protocol (IPC) in place. Once this form is submitted, they will get a reference number, and that number authorizes them to go out planting. If they haven't started planting yet, they will need an inspection prior to start-up. Planters working from home must adhere to all the same rules. The home is considered a planting camp, and must have an IPC in place and confirmed through the submission of the Attestation form.
2. Licensees are responsible for ensuring the terms of their planting contracts are upheld (planting quality etc.), but are not responsible for inspection of the planting camps.
3. [Key messages about the 2020 Spring Planting Season Covid -19 Measures](#)
4. Frequently asked questions about the tree planting season and the Province's response to COVID-19. [Q & A long version](#)
5. **Social Licence** - To address the concerns of rural and First Nation communities about workers coming in from outside of the community, CFA managers are asked to communicate directly with local leadership regarding your contractor's plans and safety measures. Social licence to operate is essential to get your trees in the ground, and maintaining it is essential to your long term work in the community! Local people want to know about the IPC and for how planters will behave, for example, when they drive into town, when they are filling up for gas and will they be stopping locally for groceries, etc.

Please email any questions or comments to [Ann Lockley \(ann.lockley@gov.bc.ca\)](mailto:ann.lockley@gov.bc.ca), Senior Extension Lead for the Office of the Chief Forester.

The BC Centre of Disease Control has also issued a [guidance document](#) to assist silviculture employers to develop operational protocols that implement the orders, notices, and guidance issued by British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer. In particular, reading this guidance will help operators to implement the requirements in the Industrial Camp Order.

For additional information, please visit:

[BC Public Health Orders, Notices & Guidance](#)

[BC Public Health Industrial Camps](#)

[BC Public Health Delegation Industrial Camps](#)



BC Forest Safety

Safety is good business

Where can I find out more information?

You can find reliable information by visiting the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#), the [BC Public Health Services Authority](#), the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) and the [World Health Organization](#).