



June 10, 2021

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Mayors and Regional District Chairs of British Columbia

Attendees of June 4, 2021 update calls on BC's Restart with Minister Josie Osborne and acting Deputy Provincial Health Officer Dr. Brian Emerson

Dear Mayors and Chairs:

Thank you for taking the time to join Minister Josie Osborne and acting Deputy Provincial Health Officer Dr. Brian Emerson for the June 4, 2021 update calls on BC's Restart, the plan Premier Horgan announced May 25. As Minister Osborne and Dr. Emerson said, these calls continue to be a great opportunity to hear from you about the key issues facing your communities.

Set out below is a reminder of the key elements of [BC's Restart](#) . Additionally, the link provided includes a very helpful 1-page snapshot of the changes that will occur at each step of the plan.

BC's Restart is a careful four-step plan to bring British Columbians back together and to allow a slow and gradual return to a more normal life. Timing for moving through the steps will be measured by key data on vaccinations, coverage of the population, COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations, taking into account clusters and outbreaks.

With more than 70 percent of adults vaccinated with their first dose and COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations steadily declining, the "circuit breaker" has ended and we can move forward with the first cautious steps of the four-step-plan.

We are in [Step 1](#) of BC's Restart; that means some additional activities are now allowed including:

- A maximum of five visitors or one other household for indoor personal gatherings
- A maximum of 10 people for outdoor personal gatherings
- A maximum of 50 people for seated outdoor organized gatherings (such as wedding ceremonies and funerals) with safety protocols in place
- Outdoor local team games and practices with no spectators
- Low-intensity indoor fitness classes
- Indoor and outdoor dining for up to six people who do not reside together

During **Step 1 and Step 2**, provincewide safety and health protocols such as mask wearing in indoor public spaces, physical distancing measures, and safety protocols that for the most part were in place prior to the circuit breaker stay in place.

Enforcement through ticketing will also stay in place, for example to ensure that no gatherings larger than permitted are held.

Recreational travel within a defined travel region is allowed but [restrictions between travel regions](#) have been extended to June 15. Hotels and other accommodation providers are encouraged to welcome guests from inside their region and enforcement of travel restrictions between regions through road checks will stay in place for now.

During **Steps 1 and 2** existing pre-circuit-breaker safety plans remain in place for the most part. But as we move into **Step 3** and **Step 4**, currently anticipated to be mid Summer and early Fall, it will be important to have **updated sector guidelines and safety plans**.

The Provincial Health Officer and the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) will continue to be the key source of guidance, and that will inform tools and resources for employers through WorkSafeBC. Ministries across government will engage with industry and labour, along with WorkSafeBC and public health, to help develop comprehensive industry specific safety plans -- for example for casinos and banquet halls. UBCM will continue to represent local governments at the COVID-19 Industry Engagement Table.

Local governments should monitor changes to the restrictions and guidance and adapt your own workplace safety plans as needed. For example, in Step 3 when large in person meetings will be allowed in offices and workplaces, local governments will need to have their safety plans in line with any new public health and safety guidance that has been issued. Updated safety plans should be ready prior to shifting to Step 3, the earliest by July 1.

There were a number of questions on the calls about:

- 1) Local government transition planning with the possible end to the provincial state of emergency and related Ministerial Orders under the Emergency Program Act, as well as
- 2) Amendments to provincial health orders, with a particular focus on potential changes to current rules around electronic meetings and electronic hearings.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff will be providing local governments with additional transitional information in the coming weeks. Additional information on Bill 10, Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2021 can be found [here](#). The amendments are intended to support communities through the COVID-19 pandemic and provide greater flexibility for local governments and the Province to respond to future extraordinary circumstances. The changes will also provide transition and continuity for local government matters currently covered under various Ministerial Orders that are part of the COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA).

Your actions are making a difference now and your actions will matter through the restart. If we stay the course, we can resume much needed visits with friends and family and support a strong economic

recovery for our province. The pandemic has been tough on everyone. It has impacted people, businesses, and communities. But British Columbians are resilient, and we're determined – we're pulling together to put this pandemic behind us. Thank you for your continued leadership in your home communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Faganello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tara Faganello
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Chief Administrative Officers
Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, UBCM
Nancy Taylor, Executive Director, LGMA
Todd Pugh, Executive Director, CivicInfo