



## COVID-19 Regional Update – January 7, 2021

### Regional COVID-19 Update as of 4pm Thursday January 7, 2021:

- Current Provincial Health Officer Orders regarding social gatherings and events have been extended to Feb 5, 2021 at Midnight. Learn more about these orders [here](#).
- 761 new cases of COVID-19 in BC (96 in Interior Health).
- Between Dec 27 and Jan 2 there have been 2 new cases in the Columbia Valley, 4 new cases in Cranbrook and 1 new case Fernie.
- 8 new COVID-19 deaths in the province with a total of 970 COVID-19 deaths in the province since January
- A total of 56,015 cases since January.
- 6,349 active cases of COVID-19 in BC.
- 372 individuals currently hospitalized with COVID-19 (74 in intensive care).
- 47,374 people who tested positive have recovered.
- As of Nov. 22, 2020, 90% of patients who had their surgery postponed during the first wave of COVID-19 were able to have their surgery completed through BC's commitment to surgical renewal. [News Release](#).
- 41,064 have been vaccinated in BC, this is spread across all health areas.
- The Provincial Vaccination Plan was updated on Monday January 4 and can be viewed [here](#).
- Link to [Joint Statement](#).
- Link to [live update](#) (video starts at 11:47 minutes in)

### BC Recovery Benefit - Online Applications Now Being Accepted:

Online applications are now open for the BC Recovery Benefit program. Applying online is the easiest way to receive the BC Recovery Benefit. To apply, British Columbians can visit: [gov.bc.ca/recoverybenefit](http://gov.bc.ca/recoverybenefit). Eligibility includes:

- \$1,000 for families with annual incomes under \$125,000. Families earning up to \$175,000 will qualify for a reduced benefit amount. Single-parent families also qualify for these benefit amounts.
- \$500 for single people with annual incomes under \$62,500. Single people earning up to \$87,500 will qualify for a reduced benefit amount.

For those without access to a computer or the internet, call centre agents will be available to assist people who need help applying or those who want to apply over the phone: \* toll-free within North



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America: 1 833 882-0020 \* Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays), from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Pacific time)

**Note:** they have had huge volumes of people trying to apply, which can cause delays. If you find that you are not able to get through, keep trying.

### **Testing: 4 Symptoms to Watch For / Get Tested**

In BC, most new cases continue to be directly connected to known, confirmed cases of COVID-19. As a result, if you are a close contact of someone with the virus or of someone who is part of a cluster or outbreak and you develop any symptoms, you should arrange to get tested immediately.

If you have not been around anyone that has COVID-19 that you are aware of, the guidance for when to get a test has been updated to make it clearer for everyone.

There are four symptoms that are highly predictive of the virus: fever or chills, cough, loss of sense of smell or taste, and difficulty breathing. If you have any of these symptoms, you should arrange to get tested right away. If you have one or two of any of the other symptoms, you can wait 24 hours. These symptoms include sore throat, loss of appetite, extreme fatigue, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. If you feel the same or worse after 24 hours, then you should also get tested. As always, if you are uncertain, contact your health provider or call 811.

### **Highlights of Orders & Restrictions:**

- **The orders for all of BC will remain in effect until January 8th at midnight.** The orders are focused very directly on reducing social gatherings, high-risk transmission activities and functions. These orders - and the response to COVID-19 - are being directed by the Province and any questions you have about the rules, status of COVID, etc. should be directed to the Province at 1-888-COVID19.
- There are to be no social gatherings anywhere in BC. You can only socialize with your immediate household. Immediate household can include your roommates and if you live on your own, it can include 1 or 2 people you regularly spend time with.
- Exception for Drive-Through and Drive-In events. This includes drive through; drive in to drop off and leave events (such as toy drive); and drive in to stay events, provided there are a maximum of 50 cars and people attending in your car include only your household. Sites must have a defined entrance and exit, and all people must stay in cars. Organizers must obey strict physical distancing.
- Delay inviting friends and family over.
- Reduce all social interactions outside of our homes.

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- NO social gatherings of any size - in our homes or larger venues. If we have people who are doing renovation work in our house, grandparents coming over to pick up children, etc. those are not social gatherings and are not affected by this order.
- The mandatory wearing of masks in all indoor and public retail spaces will continue. This does not apply to anyone unable to put on or remove mask on their own, or to children under the age of 12. Masks can be taken off at a restaurant table to eat but must remain on going to and from your table, and at any time you are away from the table.
- All indoor and outdoor events as defined in the indoor and outdoor mass gathering order are immediately suspended across the Province. There can be no in-person services in places of worship. Weddings, funerals, baptisms are permitted (at this time) with a maximum of 10 people including officiant. No receptions.
- **Group Activity impacts** - Group training/fitness/dance/yoga classes remain suspended until further notice. Some other indoor activities are still permitted; however, facilities must adhere to the updated guidance.
- **Sports** - All adult team sports have been suspended; however, child and youth sport can continue with limited activities and specific restrictions. No spectators are permitted at indoor and outdoor sports and there is to be no sport-related travel outside your local community.
- **Office space impacts** - Office space employers are being urged to support working at home wherever feasible. Employees are asked to minimize all social interactions with colleagues. Businesses and offices are urged to review WorkSafeBC guidelines, review and update all their safety plans, and complete daily health checks.
- **Travel** - Everyone in BC is being asked to limit travel as much as possible unless it is essential. All recreational and social travel should be limited - including travel within Province and other parts of Canada. Everyone is being asked to stay local and stay within your community as much as possible (this does not apply to people needing to travel for work, medical reasons, etc.). Anyone from outside BC is being asked to postpone their travel to BC. This includes holiday related travel through January 8.
- **Link to page with full details of Order and restrictions:** <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>