

November 21, 2020

To Industry Partners:

In BC, we are entering a critical phase of the COVID-19 situation. To prevent the second wave, we need to flatten the curve and relieve the stress on our health care system. A number of changes have initiated this notice to you, including that an outbreak has occurred at an industrial site in the NH region and Dr. Bonnie Henry has issued new PHO orders. Given these changes and the urgency of the situation, it is timely to provide you with an update and focus on how the new orders apply to you as an industry partner of NH. Our industry partners are a key stakeholder group that can support to control the spread of COVID-19 in our region. Together, we have flattened the curve in the past, and together, we can do it again.

Outbreaks as a risk

An outbreak has occurred at an industrial site in our health region. [More information](#) on public exposures, school exposures, and facility or community outbreaks of COVID-19 within the Northern Health region.

It is critically important that our industry partners are extra diligent with respect to increased infection prevention and control practices, public health measures, and COVID-19 Safety Plans, including improved compliance in the following areas:

- Diligent and regular hand hygiene – offer lots of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer
- Practice safe distancing (2m)
- Masking as per new orders (below)
- Cohort where possible
- Limiting travel and, if necessary, only occurs with the most limited amount of people possible
- Frequent cleaning and disinfection with approved cleansers

Province-wide restrictions

On November 19, Dr. Bonnie Henry issued a new PHO order that applies to all individuals, places of work and businesses in BC. The goal is to significantly reduce the levels of social interactions and travel. Read more [here](#). The new order is currently in effect until December 7, 2020 at midnight. As an industrial employer, the new orders that you must consider include:

- Employers must review and redouble their efforts on their COVID-19 Safety Plans. Review the WorkSafeBC COVID-19 Safety Plan documentation [here](#).
- Remind employees to monitor themselves daily and to always stay home if they have symptoms. Review the WorkSafeBC information on daily health checks [here](#).
- Employers must make every effort to provide work from home options.
 - If you have workers who are travelling to BC for work, they should only come for essential reasons.
- Workplaces must ensure that all workers maintain appropriate physical distance and extra care should be taken in small office spaces, break rooms, and kitchens.

- Masks are now required for everyone in all public indoor settings and workplaces. Employers are expected to enforce the mandatory mask policy. This will include all common areas of a workplace, including elevators, kitchens, hallways, and break rooms.
- No social gatherings (as defined [here](#)). Employers have a role to play to support that this is observed while people are on their break times and on their off-work times.
- Meetings may continue provided COVID-19 safety protocols are in operation.
- The order does not restrict flights entering and leaving BC.

Additional consideration for sites who offer worker accommodations or other services:

- If worker accommodations are provided:
 - People cannot gather beyond their 'core bubble.' For people who live alone, a 'core bubble' should be understood to be a maximum of two people who are seen regularly.
- If food service is provided on site:
 - Everyone must wear a mask when not at a table and the space must be arranged to support an appropriate COVID-19 Safety Plan.
 - Review the PHO Order – Food and Liquor Service Premises [here](#).
- If you have fitness facilities on site:
 - Individual workouts and personal training sessions may remain operational provided the COVID-19 Safety Plan is strictly followed.
 - Organized high risk indoor group physical activities must be suspended, including spin classes, hot yoga, and high intensity interval training (HIIT). Further guidance is coming for other fitness activities.
- If religious or worship services are hosted on site, they are to be suspended unless offered using remote or virtual attendance options.

Regards,



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