



District of Wells

November 23, 2020

Dear Community Members,

As you know, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced a number of new province-wide restrictions to curb the increased spread of COVID-19 across the province. As I have committed to staying in touch and keeping you informed with respect to COVID-19 related information, I am reaching out today to provide a summary on some key topics in relation to the new COVID-19 provincial health orders. I would also strongly encourage you to stay up-to-date on the latest information available by regularly checking the provincial government's COVID-19 website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions> - which also contains some helpful examples and further details on the new restrictions outlined below.

These restrictions are in effect province-wide from November 19, 2020 at midnight to December 7, 2020 at midnight.

These restrictions may be extended or modified as per case numbers of COVID 19.

- **PHO order on province-wide restrictions, social gatherings and events**

By order, all individuals, places of work and businesses in B.C. must significantly reduce social interactions. No social gatherings of any size at people's residences with anyone other than your household or core bubble are permitted. In addition, all events and community-based gatherings as defined in the [PHO order – Gatherings and Events \(PDF\)](#) are suspended and there are additional restrictions in place by sector. The order makes clear that suspension does not apply to formal meetings such as local government council or board meetings or business meetings – these are not social gatherings. For additional information see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions#pho-order> The order does not suspend operations in restaurants and bars and other types of businesses, such as retail and movies. Such operations can continue to operate as long as they have a COVID-19 Safety Plan and employee protocols in place, including masks in all public indoor spaces. All Safety Plans should be reviewed and updated to reflect things such as mandatory masks.

- **Athletic activities**

Businesses, recreation centres or other organizations that organize or operate high risk indoor group physical activities must suspend the following activities: spin classes, hot yoga and high intensity interval training (HIIT). Guidance on other physical activities done with a group indoors (e.g. dance, martial arts, cheerleading) will need to follow updated guidance that is being developed. Gyms and recreation facilities that offer individual workouts and 1-2 person personal training sessions can remain open as long as they have a COVID-19 Safety Plan that is strictly followed. Sports games, competitions and practices can continue with no spectators and no travel. For additional information see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions#athletics> Note that businesses that close due to COVID-19 restrictions [could be eligible to receive rent support of up to 90 percent.](#)

- **Places of worship**

In-person religious gatherings and worship services are suspended by order. Religious services can continue using remote or virtual attendance options, like Zoom or Skype. People can still visit your place of worship for individual activities, such as contemplation or personal prayer, and meal preparation as part of a religious service can continue provided protocols are followed.

- **Mask requirements**

Masks are now required for everyone in all public indoor settings, all retail stores and common spaces/shared spaces at workplaces. People who cannot wear a mask due to medical conditions or who cannot put on or remove a mask on their own are exempt under the order. Masks are not recommended for children under the age of 2. For additional information see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions#masks> It is government's expectation that the public abide by the mask mandate immediately along with the public health orders that were announced

- **Travel advisory**

At this time, all non-essential travel should be avoided. This includes travel into and out of B.C. and between communities of the province. Individual circumstances may affect whether a particular trip is considered essential or non-essential. Essential travel within B.C. includes: regular travel for work within your region; and travel for things like medical appointments and hospital visits. For more information see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions#travel>

HOW DO THESE NEW ORDERS AFFECT THE DISTRICT OF WELLS FACILITIES:

The District will continue to adhere to the most updated orders as placed by the Provincial Health Officer.

As of now, the newest orders announced Thursday November 19, 2020 do not pose a huge further impact to the District's facilities. All user groups are still required to adhere to their COVID 19 Safety plans as submitted to the District, with the updated regulations of mandatory masks. Mass Gatherings and large event restrictions, including the ban on using halls/banquet facilities for such events are still in effect.

As some of you may know, District staff have been working on getting the Community Fitness Centre up and operational. District staff recognize the need for a safe environment to conduct indoor fitness and will be continuing to work on getting the Community Fitness Centre up and running this week. Fitness Equipment will be spaced according to the provincial regulations, and new rules for use will apply. All previous Fitness Centre users will have to once again register. Users will also be required to sign a copy of the new Rules as well as the COVID- 19 Safety Plan. MASKS will be mandatory at this time, as per recent PHO orders. Gym membership fees will once again commence as well.

A public announcement on the day of re-opening for the Community Fitness Centre will be made in the upcoming days.

As Dr. Henry says, remember to be kind, calm and look after each other in these challenging times.

Best Regards,

Donna Forseille
Chief Administrative Officer
District of Wells

C: Mayor and Council