

Subject: COVID-19 Updates - January 8, 2021 - Social Gathering Restrictions Continue
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From: Ernie Baatz
To: Ernie Baatz
Attachments: image001.jpg

Social Gathering Restrictions Continue to February 5, 2021

“Like every part of Canada and countries around the world, the risk of spread of Covid 19 remains very high right now. In the last days, we have seen a slight increase in our cases, and our curve is trending upward. Now is our time to stay the course. We know what we need to do to bend that curve back down. We have been successful in doing that prior to this winter break and we need to do that again. As a result, our current provincial health orders on all gatherings and events have been extended through to February 5th, 2021 at midnight. This means that the same restrictions we have had on social gatherings in people’s homes, on all events at public venues and private venues, and the restrictions on sports events continue to apply.” - Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, January 7, 2021.

Yesterday Dr. Henry extended the public health orders that have been in place since November 19. As a reminder, this includes the following:

- Social visits are limited to the immediate household. No socializing with people outside your immediate household.
- For those who live alone, social visits with one or two close contacts are allowed.
- **Meeting a friend for a walk outside is allowed.**
- Masks now required in all indoor public and retail spaces, except when eating or drinking.
- Masks now required in common areas of office space. Masks not required when sitting at your desk if safe distancing is maintained.
- Masks not required if the person is unable to wear one due to their disability, or for children under the age of two.
- Employers to support and encourage working from home as much as possible.
- Essential workers and those who must go into the office should limit social interactions with co-workers before, during and after work.
- Active daily screening of all workers to ensure people are not coming to work with symptoms of Covid-19.
- No in-person services at places of worship. Funerals and weddings may proceed with maximum 10 people including the officiant, following safety guidelines.
- Indoor high intensity group fitness activities like hot yoga and spin classes are suspended.
- No spectators at indoor or outdoor sporting activities, and no group travel for these activities.
- Limit travel as much as possible unless it is essential. Stay within your local community as much as possible.

Covid-19 remains a serious risk to individuals we support and those who support them. While Spectrum has so far avoided an outbreak in any of our homes, several service providers in BC have had outbreaks. Just yesterday the CBC reported an outbreak in Vernon with 22 positive cases linked to a single group home:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/vernon-covid-19-venture-training-disability-1.5865521>

Spectrum is committed to following the public health orders and ensuring the safety of individuals, staff and caregivers. We are committed to following the requirements laid out by CLBC and WorkSafe BC to provide safe supports to those we serve and a safe work environment for our employees. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has worked so hard over the past year to keep themselves and others safe. Your efforts are making a difference. We need everyone to continue to be vigilant.

Our expectation is that staff will follow all of the guidelines put in place by public health and as laid out in Spectrum's policies and procedures. The homes where we provide support must be safe spaces for the people living there and for staff going into the homes. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to the supervisor or feel free to call one of the coordinators, directors or HR. We are here to answer your questions any time.

"Brighter days are without a doubt ahead, when thousands more will be immunized from COVID-19 and the spread of the virus has slowed. Let's work together now knowing what we do will make a difference for all of us tomorrow."

[Full BC Government Update here.](#)

Public health orders and restrictions extended to February 5

- Non-essential travel advisory
- Socialize with your household only
- Restrictions to amateur sports
- High-risk group fitness suspended
- Masks mandatory in indoor public places
- No events or gatherings

COVID-19 IN BC

Vaccination Update

People with disabilities who live in group homes are going to be eligible for vaccines beginning in February 2021. CLBC and the health authorities are beginning to gather information to schedule vaccinations. One of the steps in preparation for vaccines is to understand the issues around consent for vaccination. Some people get their regular flu vaccine every year and understand the benefits and risks of vaccines and health care providers will be able to provide the Covid vaccine. Other people may not have clear communication or experience with vaccines and health care providers will ask for someone to assist with decision-making. Spectrum staff and caregivers cannot give consent for medical treatment, including vaccines. For people with representation agreements, the representative can assist the person with the decision to get the vaccine. Here is some information on the BC Centre For Disease Control about consent for vaccines.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/informed-consent-for-immunization>

Scroll down to the Scenarios Section and select the 2 scenarios that say “Adult Who Can Give Consent” and “Adults Who Can’t Give Consent”.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

www.spectrumsociety.org

cell: 604-644-1474

Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe