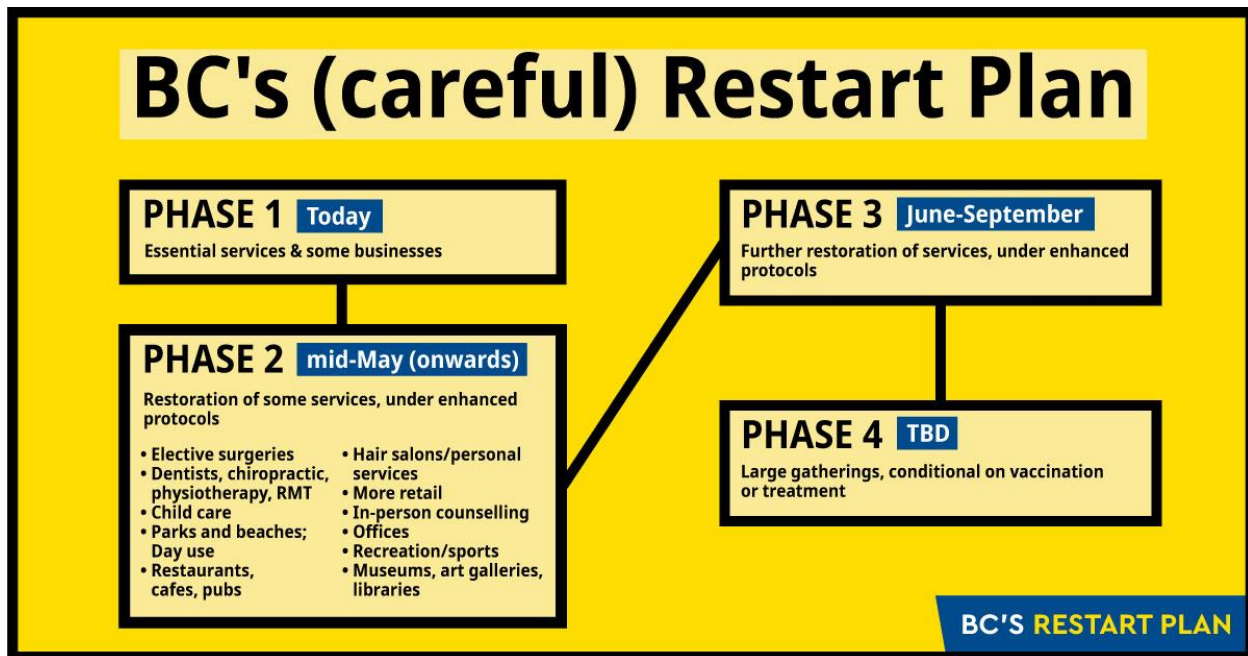


COVID-19 Special Update: BC's Restart Plan

May 7, 2020

Under [B.C.'s Restart Plan](#), government will work closely with public health officials, businesses and labour organizations to lift restrictions in phases, gradually allowing for more social and economic activity, while closely monitoring health information to minimize the risk to the public.

Restarting economic activity will look different in B.C. than in other jurisdictions, because only a small number of sectors in the province were closed by public health order. Many other provinces are just now reaching the level of safe operations B.C. has been able to maintain throughout the pandemic. As a result, BC is already in Phase 1 of the restart plan and will move to Phase 2 in Mid-May. Here is a summary of the plan:



New Normal: Our 'new normal' until we reach Phase 4 requires that we all adopt the following principles for daily life and work:

- staying informed, being prepared and following public health advice;
- practicing good hygiene – hand hygiene, avoid touching your face and respiratory etiquette;
- no exceptions to staying at home and away from others if feeling ill – whether for school, work or socializing;
- maintaining physical distancing outside the household, e.g., no handshakes or hugs, and keeping your number of contacts low and keeping a safe distance;
- making necessary contacts safer with appropriate controls, e.g., using plexiglass barriers or redesigning spaces;
- increasing cleaning of frequently touched surfaces at home and work;
- considering the use of non-medical masks in situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained, such as on transit or while shopping; and
- continuing to reduce personal non-essential travel.

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Workplace Health & Safety: All employers must demonstrate that they can operate safely. Employers will be required to review and adapt the [new Health and Safety Guidelines](#), best practices and other resources from [WorkSafeBC](#) to create appropriate COVID-19 Safe Plans for your workplace. Sick leave policies must be part of the employer's plans to ensure no one comes to work sick.

Social Interactions: Gatherings of 2-6 people will be permitted, so long as no one has any COVID-19 symptoms, such as coughing or sneezing. Physical distancing should be maintained with anyone who has a compromised immune system, who is older than 60 or has an underlying medical condition.

Re-Opening Schools: A phased approach to resuming in-class instruction will start with allowing some kids to return to class in an adapted manner for the remainder of the year, but most kids won't return to the classroom until September. Key protocols will include daily screening for signs of illness, frequent cleaning, smaller class sizes, spacing students and frequent washing of hands. No high contact sports. Early arrival and self-isolation for 14 days of international students. This is a summary of the stages for K-12:

Education stages for K-12 students
<p>Stage 5</p> <p>Suspend all in-class instruction for all grades and students.</p> <p>Remote and online learning for all students.</p>
<p>Stage 4 *Current stage</p> <p>In-class learning for children of essential service workers and vulnerable students.</p> <p>Remote and online learning continues for most students.</p>
<p>Stage 3</p> <p>In-class learning for students in kindergarten to Grade 5 on a part-time basis.</p> <p>Access to in-class learning as needed for grades 6 to 12 on a part-time basis.</p> <p>Remote and online learning continues to be available for students.</p>
<p>Stage 2</p> <p>In-class learning for all students in elementary school (K to 7) on a full-time basis.</p> <p>In-class learning for secondary students (grades 8 to 12) on a part-time basis.</p> <p>Remote and online learning continues to be available for secondary students.</p>
<p>Stage 1</p> <p>A return to full in-class instruction.</p>

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Re-Opening Childcare: Child care centres and camps will need to take additional precautions to maintain the health and safety of their employees and the children they are caring for. The basics will include routine daily screening of staff and kids; frequent cleaning; and ensuring staff and children who have cold or flu symptoms do not attend child care or summer camps.

Office-Based Work: Employees should continue working from home. If this is not possible, they should have staggered work hours or shifts to reduce “contact intensity” and “number of contacts” in the work place. In person group meetings should be avoided as much as possible, continuing to meet virtually.

Post-Secondary Institutions: Routine daily screening protocol for all staff and students, frequent cleaning, increased use of on-line learning balanced against the need of social interaction for learning and development. Early arrival and self-isolation for 14 days of international students.

Recreation, Sports & Camps: Routine daily symptom screening for all staff and participants, support low contact sports (especially outdoor) and avoid high contact sports. Ensure participants and staff cannot participate if they have any illness symptoms. Staff and students at higher risk of experiencing severe illness should not take part in recreational, sporting, or camp activities.

Expanding Public Transit: Enhanced health and safety precautions, including frequent cleaning; wearing non-medical masks for riders and staff; use of plexiglass or physical barriers where possible for drivers; and staying home when sick will be a part of the new normal for the foreseeable future.

Health Services: As of May 19, dental care, physiotherapy, chiropractic, scheduled surgeries, outpatient services, in person counselling, diagnostic testing and imaging services will be permitted to operate in modified ways.

Personal Services: Hair salons, barbers, spas and other personal services will be permitted to open, as of mid-May, so long as they require appointments, avoid waiting areas, ensure clients don't come in when sick and encourage the use of masks.

Restaurants, Retail and Other Services: Stores, museums and libraries can reopen starting in mid-May so long as they reduce lineups by setting up more checkout stations, installing plexiglass to protect workers, encourage online access, restrict the number of people inside at any time, encourage the use of masks and remind people not to attend when they're sick. Restaurants and pubs can resume dine-in operations as of June 1st, with patio service before then possible, depending on the municipality.

Travel & Outdoor Recreation: Everyone should continue to avoid any non-essential travel. Hotels and resorts remain closed but could reopen in June. International travel will not resume until a vaccine is available. Provincial parks will reopen on May 14 for day use, overnight camping may be allowed as of June. Masks remain required on all air travel.

Large Gatherings: Bars, casinos and nightclubs likely won't be reopening until Phase 4, similar to any gatherings of more than 50 people. Therefore, conventions, large concerts and live audiences at team sports won't be happening until a vaccine is readily available. Movies and symphonies, with limited attendance, may be allowed to reopen in July.

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Legislature: A new schedule for the Legislature to resume sitting will be released soon.

In solidarity,

Justin Schmid
CUPE Legislative Coordinator
BC Region

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