



Emergency Preparedness Committee Gatherings and Events during Christmas

Date: December 16, 2020

Using the Provincial Health Orders to direct the action taken by the Emergency Preparedness Committee, we would like to stress the following information to the Residents of the Nass Valley to follow these orders to continue to protect our elders, vulnerable and our youth. Social interactions and close contact between people are associated with significant risks and increases in the number of people who develop COVID-19 and become seriously ill. As we have learned from the current situation, gatherings present a significantly high risk of contracting and spreading the virus. Seasonal and Celebrations and social gatherings in private residents have resulted in the transmission of COVID-19.

These Orders expire at 12:00 am on January 8, 2020.

Christmas and holiday celebrations

All December celebrations will look different this year. Celebrate with your immediate household or core bubble. Single people may host their core bubble in their home or go to the homes of people in their core bubble.

- You must not host gatherings with people outside of your core bubble or household
- Do not look for loopholes or excuses to gather
- Consider hosting virtual parties and religious services
- Unwrap gifts over Zoom or Skype
- Grandparents who provide regular childcare for their grandchildren can spend time together over the holidays
- If you must travel for essential reasons, review the health and safety precautions

Travel advisory

At this time, all non-essential travel should be avoided. This includes travel into and out of B.C. and between regions of the province. For example:

- Do not travel for a vacation
- Do not travel to visit friends or family outside of your household or core bubble





What is essential travel?

Individual circumstances may affect whether a trip is considered essential or non-essential.

Essential travel within B.C. includes:

- Regular travel for work within your region
- Travel for things like medical appointments and hospital visits

For example, if you live in Terrace and work in a Nisga'a Village you can continue to commute.

If you need to travel for essential reasons, take the same health and safety precautions you do at home.

- Wash your hands often
- Practice safe distancing, 2 metres
- Travel only with yourself, household or pandemic bubble
- Stick to the outdoors whenever possible
- Clean spaces often
- Wear a mask in indoor spaces

Social gatherings

No social gatherings of any size at your residence with anyone other than your household or core bubble. For example:

- Do not invite friends or extended family to your household
- Do not host gathering outdoors
- Do not gather in your backyard
- Do not have playdates for children

Core bubble

For most people, their core bubble is their immediate household. An immediate household is a group of people who live in the same dwelling. For example:

- If you have a rental suite in your home, the suite is a separate household
- If you live in an apartment or house with roommates, you are all members of the same household

For others, including people who live alone, their core bubble may also contain a partner, relative, friend or co-parent who lives in a different household. This should be a maximum of two people outside of those living in your immediate household.





Mask requirements in public indoor settings

As outlined in the mask mandate order, masks are required for everyone in many public indoor settings. A face shield is not a substitute for a mask as it has an opening below the mouth.

There are exemptions for:

- People with health conditions or with physical, cognitive or mental impairments who cannot wear one
- People who cannot remove a mask on their own
- Children under the age of 12

Masks are required in many indoor public settings and all retail stores. This includes:

- Malls, shopping centres
- Grocery stores
- Airports
- Coffee shops
- On public transportation, in a taxi or ride-sharing vehicle
- Places of worship
- Libraries
- Common areas of post-secondary institutions, office buildings, court houses, hospitals and hotels
- Clothing stores
- Liquor stores
- Drug stores
- Community centres
- Recreation centres
- City Halls
- Restaurants, pubs and bars when not seated at a table
- Sport or fitness facilities when not working out

Masks at workplaces and shared living areas

It is strongly recommended that masks be worn in the following areas:

- Common areas in apartment buildings and condos, including:
 - Elevators
 - Hallways
 - Lobbies
 - Stairwells
- Shared indoor workplace spaces, including:
 - Elevators
 - Kitchens
 - Hallways
 - Break rooms





Mask enforcement

You are subject to a \$230 fine if you:

- Do not wear a mask in an indoor public setting, unless you are exempt
- Refuse to comply with the direction of an enforcement officer, including the direction to leave the space
- Engage in abusive or belligerent behaviour

Allowed activities

These activities are not considered a social gathering:

- Going for a walk. You must make sure a walk does not turn into a group of people meeting outside
- Parents carpooling kids to and from school
- Grandparents providing child care
- Public pools and public skating rinks, when not associated with an event, are allowed to continue to operate with a COVID-19 Safety Plan

Gyms and recreation facilities

Gyms and recreation facilities that offer individual workouts and personal training sessions can remain open as long as they have a COVID-19 Safety Plan that is strictly followed.

Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms

Funerals, weddings and baptisms may proceed with a limited number of people and a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. You can have a maximum of 10 people attend, including the officiant. Receptions associated with funerals, weddings or baptisms are not allowed at any location that includes: Inside or outside homes and any public or community-based venues

Youth extracurricular activities

Structured extracurricular activities and programs for people under 19 years of age can continue to operate with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place and must be supervised by an adult.

These include:

- Educational programs
- Music
- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- Recreational programs
- Outdoor fitness
- Social activities

