



Emergency Preparedness Committee Gatherings and Events Provincial Health Order

Date: December 16, 2021

Social Interactions and close contact between people are associated with increases in transmission of COVID and increases the number of people who develop COVID-10 and become seriously ill. People spending time together indoors increases the risk of the transmission in the population, thereby increasing the number of people contracting the illness. Gatherings and events in private residences, vacation accommodation and other places continue to pose a risk of promoting the transmission of COVID-19. There has also been an increase in the number of persons infected with COVID-19 in the Northern Health Authority and continue to remain steadily increasing within the Nass Valley. We recognize the societal effects, including the hardships, which the measures the Emergency Preparedness Committee has put in place to protect the health of the Nisga'a Nation have on many aspects of life, culture and other factors. With this in mind, we continually engage in a process of reconsideration of these measures based on information and evidence available to both Nisga'a Lisims Government and Nisga'a Valley Health Authority, including infection rates, sources of transmission, the presence of clusters and outbreaks, immunization rates and many others. With the view of balancing the interests of the public, gatherings and events against the risk of harm to public health by gatherings and events and unvaccinated persons;

These Orders are active until January 31, 2022

A. Social Gatherings at Private residences

1. A person must not organize, host, or attend a social gathering inside a private residence or vacation accommodation unless:
 - a. All individuals in attendance age 12 and older are vaccinated
 - b. The occupants of not more than one other private residence or vacation accommodation, and any event staff, are present in addition to the occupants
 - c. Up to the maximum of 10 people, including any event staff, are present in addition to the occupants.





2. A person must not organize, host or attend, an event outside a private residence or vacation accommodation, including on the deck or patio, garden or yard unless:
 - a. All individuals in attendance age 12 and older are vaccinated
 - b. Hand sanitation supplies are readily available
 - c. Up to a maximum of 25 people, including any event staff, are present in addition to the occupants
 - d. No person who is attending the event and who is not an occupant goes inside, except for the purposes of using the washroom facilities, or the kitchen in the case of event staff.
3. The owner of vacation accommodation must require any tenant, guest or other person using the vacation accommodation to comply with the requires in Part A

B. Events

1. A person must not permit a place to be used for, organize, or be present at an event, except in compliance with this order
2. For certainty,
 - a. An event held in a tent with one or more sides is an inside event and
 - b. An event held in a tent with any sides is an outside event

C. Outside Events

1. A person may permit a place to be used for, or may organize or be present at an outside event, if the provisions of this Part and Part G (Proof of Vaccination) are complied with
2. Proof of Vaccination required in accordance with Section I (Proof of Vaccination)
3. There is an organizer
4. Access to the event is controlled
5. A person must not permit a place to be used for or must not organize an outside event with the purpose as an outside event unless the event is held as a seated outside event.
6. A person must not participate in an outside event
 - a. With a purpose described as on outside event unless event is a seated event
 - b. Held as a standing event, if the purpose of the event is an outside event
7. If the event is described as an outside event
 - a. There must be a seat for each participant





- b. No more than 50% of the seated operating capacity of the place, excluding event staff, are present for a seated outside event.
 - c. Participants must be seated throughout the place in such a way as to use all the available space
 - d. For venues with no specified operation capacity, participants must be seated through the place in such a way as to use all available space and provide to metres separation between participants not from the same household.
 - e. Participants must be seated throughout the event, except
 - i. To use a food or drink station
 - ii. To use washroom facilities
 - iii. To move to another seat
 - iv. To provide assistance to another person who requires care or first aid
 - v. To leave or return to the premises
8. If there is a food or drink station
- a. Hand washing facilities or alcohol-based sanitizers are within easy reach of the station
 - b. Signs reminding participants to wash or sanitize their hands before touching self-serve food, drink or other items, are posted at the self-serve station and
 - c. High touch surfaces at the station, and utensils that are used for self-serve, are frequently cleaned and sanitized
9. Toilet facilities with running water soap and paper towels for handwashing and drying purposes, or hand sanitation supplies, are available to participants
10. The organizer monitors the number of participants present, and ensure that the number of participants present does not exceed 50% of the maximum capacity of the venue. If they are not seated, the organizer ensures that participants maintain social distancing of two metres from one another.
11. A participant must comply with the requirements in the part, and with the measures, or guidance or directions from the organizer or a member of the staff, intended to avoid the congregation of participants
12. If the organizer is not the owner or occupant of the place in which an outside event is held, the owner or occupant must be satisfied that the organizer is aware of the condition and requirements in the part, and has the capacity to fulfil them





13. COVID-19 Safety Plan is required, available upon request from Village Government Administration or Emergency Response Services Department Staff

D. Inside Events

1. A person may permit a place to be used for or may organize or be present at an inside event, if the provisions of the part and part G (proof of vaccination) are complied with
2. A person must not permit a place to be used for or must not organize an inside event with a purpose described as an inside event unless the event is held as seated inside event
3. A person must not participate in an inside event
 - a. With a purpose described as an inside event unless the event is held as a seated inside event or
 - b. Held as a standing event, if the purpose of the event is described as an inside event
4. Up to 50% of the seated operating capacity of the place may be used for the purpose of the seated inside event
5. Proof of vaccination required in accordance with Section G (proof of vaccination)
6. There is an organizer
7. Access to the event is controlled
8. If the event is described as an inside event
 - a. There must be a seat available for each participant
 - b. Participants must be seated throughout the place in such a way as to use all available space
 - c. Participants must be seated throughout the event except
 - i. To use a food or drink station
 - ii. To use washroom facilities
 - iii. To move to another seat
 - iv. To provide assistance to another person who requires care or first aid
 - v. To leave or return to the premises
9. If there is a food or drink station
 - a. Hand washing facilities or alcohol based sanitizers are within easy reach of the station





- b. Signs reminding participants to wash or sanitize their hands before touching self-serve food, drink or other items, are posted at self-serve station and;
 - c. High touch surfaces at the station, and utensils that are used for self-serve, are frequently cleaned and sanitized
10. Toilet facilities with running water soap and paper towels for handwashing and drying purposes, or hand sanitation supplies, are available to participants
11. The organizer monitors the number of participants present, and ensure that the number of participants present does not exceed 50% of the maximum capacity of the venue. If they are not seated, the organizer ensures that participants maintain social distancing of two metres from one another.
12. Subject to further direction, participants to not dance, unless they are performing at an event, registered participants in and attending at a dance class at a dance studio, or a child or youth participating in a program for children or youth
13. If the organizer is not the owner or occupant of the place in which an outside event is held, the owner or occupant must be satisfied that the organizer is aware of the condition and requirements in the part, and has the capacity to fulfil them
14. COVID-19 Safety Plan is required, available upon request from Village Government Administration or Emergency Response Services Department Staff

E. Flow Through Events

1. all flow through events require a COVID-19 Safety Plan, available upon request
2. outdoor flow through events must limit capacity, and facilitate movement of patrons through the venue to avoid overcrowding and congregation
3. indoor flow through events are limited to 50% capacity of the venue or dedicated events space within the venue. This does not include vendors, volunteers or organizers and the capacity limit must be included in the COVID-19 safety plan
4. vendors must sanitize their booth or display; organizers must ensure common surfaces are sanitized every 2 hours throughout the indoor or outdoor event.
5. All vendors and participants must wear face covering at indoor flow through events and face coverings are highly recommended at outdoor flow through events.





F. Worship services

1. Patrons individually may attend a place of worship for the purpose of prayer or quiet reflection
2. A person must not permit a place of worship to be used for, or organize, lead or participate in, a worship service inside or outside
3. Virtual worship service or drive-in service may be provided
 - a. If a drive-in service is held, patrons must only attend with members of their household and remain in the vehicle for the duration of the service
4. A participant must not gather with other participants during, before or after a virtual worship service

G. PROOF OF VACCINATION

1. This Part applies to inside events.
2. This Part does not apply to
 - (a) a person under 12 years of age, or
 - (b) a person 12 to 21 years of age who is participating in a program for children or youth.
3. Sections 7 and 8 do not apply to a person who is employed to lead, supervise or assist with a program for children or youth.
4. The following requirements apply with respect to an inside event:
 - (a) An organizer must obtain proof in the form of a vaccine card that a participant has received two doses of vaccine.
 - (b) A participant must provide an organizer with proof in the form of a vaccine card of having received two doses of vaccine.
 - (c) An organizer must not permit a participant who has not provided the organizer with proof in the form of a vaccine card of having received two doses of vaccine to enter or remain a place for the purpose of an event or to participate in an event.
 - (d) A participant who has not provided an organizer with proof in the form of a vaccine card of having received two doses of vaccine must not enter or remain in a place for the purpose of an event or participate in an event.
 - (e) If an event takes place on more than one day, the requirements in this section apply on each of those days.





5. An operator must not scan the QR code on a vaccine card with any tool other than a BC Vaccine Card Verifier App.
6. Subject to section 7, an organizer must not retain proof of vaccination or identification provided by a participant, or use it for any purpose other than to confirm that a participant has been vaccinated, as required by this Order.
7. Despite section 6, with the written consent of a participant, an organizer may keep a record of the fact that the participant has provided proof of being vaccinated in compliance with this Part until this Order expires or is repealed, and the organizer may rely upon this record to satisfy the requirements in this Part with respect to future participation by the participant in an event at the same place.
8. A person, including a parent, must have received two doses of vaccine, if the person is
 - (a) leading, supervising or assisting with a program for children or youth on a volunteer basis, including if the person receives an honorarium for doing so, or
 - (b) required to be present with a child or youth at a program for children or youth.
9. A person who has not received two doses of vaccine must not
 - (a) lead, supervise or assist with a program for children or youth on a volunteer basis, including if the person receives an honorarium for doing so, or
 - (b) be present with a child or youth at a program for children or youth.
10. Section 3 applies with respect to persons to whom section 8 applies

H. This Order does not Include the following

1. This order does not apply to a council, board, or trust committee of a local authority as defined under the Community Charter, or the Local Government Act. Or a school board; the distribution of food or other supplies to people in need; health or social services provided to the people in need, such as warning centres; swimming and activities in swimming pools; fitness facilities which are located in a workplace for the benefit of workers, health care related events including immunization clinics, court sittings wherever they occur, workers in their workplace when engaged in their work activities, including staff meetings; work camps; employment related training; services provided by or on behalf of any level of Government.

I. Event COVID-19 Safety Plan

1. When an event is in planning process, the event organizer will receive a copy of the Emergency Response Services Department Event Covid-19 Safety Plan. This must be filled out in its entirety and posted for review at the event





2. There is no requirement to submit safety plan for approval, but can be submitted to the respective Village Government and Emergency Response Services Department.
3. If the event is found to be non-compliant with current protocols and restrictions, the event can be shut down by the Village Government and/or Guardian Staff

J. 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

