

COVID-19 BULLETIN – MAY 6, 2020

By Delayne Sartison Q.C. and Tamara Navaratnam

This afternoon, Premier John Horgan released details of [BC's Restart Plan](#). British Columbians will move forward with safely restarting their province beginning in mid-May, according to a plan [announced today](#).

Under BC's Restart Plan, the 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

The phases will be spaced out in intervals of 2 – 4 weeks.

BC is currently in Phase 1 of the Restart Plan. Phase 2, which will begin in mid-May, includes:

- Small social gatherings of 2 – 6 people
- Restoration of health services
 - Re-scheduling elective surgery
 - Medically related services:
 - Dentistry, physiotherapy, registered massage therapy, and chiropractors
 - Physical therapy, speech therapy, and similar services
- Retail sector
- Hair salons, barbers, and other personal service establishments
- In-person counselling
- Restaurants, cafes, and pubs (with sufficient distancing measures)
- Museums, art galleries, and libraries
- Office-based worksites
- Recreation and sports
- Parks, beaches, and outdoor spaces
- Child care

Sectors that were ordered closed will be asked to work with WorkSafeBC to develop plans to reopen safely. WorkSafeBC is developing industry-specific guidance to help employers bring workers and customers back safely.

Any business restarting operations must ensure it is in compliance with the Provincial Health Officer's orders and in accordance with occupational health and safety guidance provided by WorkSafeBC. Employers will be required to:

- Review the new [Health and Safety Guidelines](#), best practices and other resources from [WorkSafeBC](#).
- Adapt these materials into appropriate COVID-19 Safe Plans for each workplace



Sectors that have operated during the pandemic may need to update their COVID-19 Safe Plans to fit with updated Health and Safety Guidelines, best practices and resources.

For employers and retailers seeking detailed information about the province's expectations for the reopening of specific sectors, please refer to the [BC COVID-19 Go-Forward Management Strategy](#), as well as resources from [WorkSafeBC](#).

Next Phases

If the transmission rate of COVID-19 remains low or continues to decline under Phase 2, under enhanced protocols, Phase 3 will commence, allowing even broader economic activity to resume from June to September, including:

- Hotels and Resorts (June 2020)
- Parks – broader reopening, including some overnight camping (June 2020)
- Film industry – beginning with domestic productions (June/July 2020)
- Select entertainment – movies and symphony, but not large concerts (July 2020)
- Post-secondary education – with mix of online and in-class (September 2020)
- K-12 education – with only a partial return this school year (September 2020)

Some activities will remain prohibited unless there is widespread vaccination, “community” immunity or a broadly applied and successful treatment. Those activities include:

- Activities requiring large gatherings, such as
 - Conventions
 - Live audience professional sports
 - Concerts
- International tourism

Still to be determined is how night clubs, casinos and bars will resume operations.

Navigating COVID-19 in the Workplace

For further information relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and how it may impact your workplace, please look to our previous bulletins, which can be found on [Roper Grevell's COVID-19 resource page](#).

This memorandum is current to the afternoon of **May 6, 2020**, but the pandemic and the responses of federal and provincial governments continue to evolve, and this may impact the accuracy of the information in this bulletin. If in doubt about whether anything in this document is still current, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

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Page 3

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