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Emergency Operations Centre Information

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Friday, November 20, 2020

THE BOTTOM LINE – IT'S TIME AGAIN TO STAY CLOSE TO HOME

New orders to address the rise in COVID-19 cases throughout BC and the country were announced yesterday by the Province of BC.

The orders address social gatherings, exercise facilities, workplaces, travel and the use of masks in public and retail spaces. The orders will be in effect until December 7 but may be extended. The orders are designed to keep essential services operating, ensure schools can continue to operate and relieve stress on the health care system.

The Skidegate Emergency Operations Centre supports the new measures. Please read the measures carefully and consider your day-to-day activities in light of them. Limiting or putting off activities, if possible, for the next two weeks will dramatically reduce the likelihood of the inadvertent spread of COVID-19.

Within any order or recommendation there are always circumstances that don't quite fit. If you find yourself in that situation, consult someone whose opinion you respect or call the SKG EOC. But the bottom line is that it's time again to stay close to home, limit your travel and interactions with others outside your tight bubble.

The new Provincial orders:

Social gatherings

All indoor or outdoor events as defined in our Gathering and Events order are prohibited. This includes religious, cultural or community events, with the exception of baptisms, funerals and weddings. These may proceed with up to 10 people including an officiant if a COVID-19 safety plan is in place. There are to be no associated receptions of any kind in any venue.

There are to be **no** social gatherings at residences with anyone other than those who reside there. People who live alone must host no gatherings, but can continue to see one or two of the same members of their core pandemic bubble at home.

SKG EOC: This order does not prohibit a family member from providing child while you are at work, but it does order us to limit all interactions outside of a household. Under the order, you can no longer have your "safe six" visit.

Group physical activities

Businesses, recreation centres or other venues that organize or operate indoor group spin classes, hot yoga and high-intensity interval training will stop for the fall and winter.

Guidance on other physical activities done with a group indoors will need to follow updated guidance that is being developed.

Sports activities can continue, but there is to be no travel outside of communities for games or competitions, and no spectators are allowed. League organizers should continue planning for 2021 with today's modifications in mind.

Workplace safety

All businesses and worksites must conduct active daily screening of all on-site workers using their COVID-19 safety plans.

Workers and customers **must wear masks in indoor public and retail spaces** (except when eating or drinking), and in workplace common areas, including elevators, hallways, group or break rooms, kitchens and customer counters.

Office-based employers should temporarily suspend their efforts to safely get employees back to their workplace and support work-from-home options wherever possible.

SKG EOC: The SKG EOC recognizes the efforts made by local businesses to comply with local measures.

Travel

All non-essential travel outside of one's community is strongly discouraged. People travelling to stay with immediate family members should ensure they do not host or participate in any social gatherings.

The SKG EOC recommends that travel between communities be curtailed except for essential purposes, i.e.: Grocery, home supplies, medications, work and medical appointments. Do not travel to visit friends or family outside of your household.

Statistics

The Northern Health Authority area, of which Haida Gwaii is a part, has seen a total of 552 cases of COVID-19 so far. There are 8 people hospitalized, 11 in Intensive Care and we have seen 5 deaths since March. 472 people have recovered in the region.

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