

COVID-19: Ensuring Balance in Easing Restrictions

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry recently announced planned changes to public health orders over the coming days and weeks focused on resuming more types of activities and events. These actions are part of a shift in the provincial COVID-19 response to a sustainable, long term COVID-19 management strategy focused on immunization, self-management, and specific actions to protect those most at risk of severe infection.

As noted, protective measures in place right now, including those for K-12, are set to be reviewed by March 15 and April 12. We continue to work with the Provincial Steering Committee and BCCDC to review the latest public health guidance to determine what updates to our guidelines may be needed as we move forward.

Please see the [presentation slides](#) for more information on the provincial COVID-19 response.

Update to International Travel Requirements

On February 15, the Government of Canada announced a series of changes to border measures as part of a transition towards a more sustainable framework for long-term management of COVID-19.

Of interest to K-12 schools:

- Children under 12 years old who are not fully vaccinated and returning to Canada following international travel with parents and other eligible adults who qualify as fully vaccinated continue to be exempt from quarantine and are no longer required to wait 14 days before attending school, camp, or daycare.
- Travellers 12 and over who do not qualify as fully vaccinated will continue to be required to quarantine for 14 days.
- Effective February 28, the Government of Canada is expected to remove its recommendation that Canadians avoid non-essential travel to all destinations. However, they continue to encourage travellers to understand the risks that are still associated with international travel, and to take necessary precautions.

Prior to spring break, schools are encouraged to remind staff, student and families that they are responsible for understanding and adhering to all international travel requirements, including [COVID-19 travel, testing and borders](#) as outlined by the Government of Canada.