

Rescindment of Addendum - Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings

February 15, 2022

Today the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, announced planned changes to public health orders over the coming days and weeks focused on resuming more types of activities and events.

In alignment with this announcement, BCCDC expects to rescind their December 2021 Addendum that outlined additional prevention measures for K-12 schools on Friday February 18. As such, the [Addendum – Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) will also be rescinded at end of day this Friday (11:59 pm PT). After which, K-12 schools can return to the prevention measures as outlined in the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#), with the following offered for clarity:

School gatherings and events:

- For school gatherings and events that bring together multiple classes or other groupings of students (e.g., school assemblies, multiple classes doing a single activity) from the same school (but members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers are not attending), there is not a specific capacity limit.
- For school extracurricular and social gatherings and events that bring together members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers (e.g., an arts club performance, community fair), or that occur between schools (e.g., a music festival, a sports game or tournament), indoor capacity should not exceed 50 people or 50% of operating capacity (whichever is greater).
 - For indoor spaces without a defined operating capacity, schools should determine a capacity limit that is at most half the number of individuals that would be within the space for that activity or event if prevention measures weren't in place.
- Spectators (e.g., parents, caregivers, peers), may be present for gatherings and events (e.g., attend performance club theatre productions, inter-school sports games and tournaments, etc.) within capacity limits.
- Schools should not implement proof of vaccination requirements for school-led gatherings and events.

Visitors:

- Visitors are no longer limited to those supporting activities of direct benefit to student learning and wellbeing.

Organizers should continue to apply a trauma-informed lens to their planning, including consideration of gradual transitions to larger gatherings (e.g., school-wide assemblies), including starting with smaller in-person options, shorter in-person sessions, etc.

The Ministry is meeting with BCCDC and the Provincial K-12 Steering Committee this week to further review the latest guidance from the PHO to determine what additional updates to our guidelines may be needed as we move forward.