Deputy Minister's Bulletin

Ministry of Education

COVID-19 Update

May 28, 2021

BC's Restart

Earlier this week, the Provincial Health Officer announced <u>BC's Restart</u>, a new four-step plan that focuses on a safe and gradual return to normal activities. Step 1 of the plan began on May 25 and includes some relaxing of provincial restrictions related to gatherings and travel within health regions. These changes **do not** impact the existing COVID-19 <u>Operational</u> and <u>Health & Safety</u> Guidelines for K-12 settings, which remain in place and must continue to be followed for the remainder of the school year.

Guidance for Graduation Events

Further to consultation with BCCDC regarding BC's Restart, K-12 graduation events can proceed as follows: School-sponsored events (including graduation ceremonies and other activities, held on or off of school grounds) must continue to follow the previously issued <u>K-12 guidance</u>.

Community-organized and private events must follow the requirements of the recently updated Provincial Health Officer <u>Order on Gathering & Events</u>. These include:

- A program for children & youth (which can include events such as a safe grad held at a community centre). Requirements include but are not limited to:
 - Up to 50 people total (including event staff/volunteers). No spectators.
 - People maintain 2 metres from those outside of their household.
 - Measures are put in place to avoid congregation.
- An outside, seated event (can include events such as group dinners). Requirements include but are not limited to:
 - Up to 50 people total (including event staff/volunteers).
 - People maintain 2 metres from those outside of their household.
 - There is a chair available for every person and people remain seated except to obtain food or drink or to use the washroom.

Community-organized events must also have a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

For personal gatherings (e.g. those organized amongst families and friends), up to 10 people are allowed to gather outdoors. Up to 5 other people or 2 households can gather indoors. Learn more on <u>BC's Restart Plan web page</u>.

School and district administrators are encouraged to share this information with their school communities.