



March 14, 2022

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations EOC Bulletin

Re: TFN EOC Health Orders effective March 14, 2022

As people in B.C. and in our communities continue to step up and become vaccinated in record numbers, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have decreased, leading the TFN to come in line with the provincial health orders to lift additional public health orders.

As of Friday, March 11, 2022, B.C.'s indoor mask order is being repealed along with eased restrictions on long-term care visitors, faith gatherings and overnight camps for children and youth. Today's announcement also sets a pathway to lift additional COVID-19 restrictions, including the BC Vaccine Card requiring proof of vaccination, on April 8.

Although this is a Provincial Public Health order, Tla-o-qui-aht public buildings will still require masks until March 25, 2022 due to our high percentage of vulnerable people in our communities.

Effective March 11, 2022, at 12:01 a.m., the following changes have been made to public health orders:

- Face coverings order: Face coverings will be optional for people in all indoor public settings. People may want to continue wearing a mask based on personal choice.
- Individual businesses and organizations can choose to continue to require mask wearing on their premises. (Tla-o-qui-aht will continue people to require masks inside their public buildings until March 25, 2022)
- Gatherings and events: The requirement for gatherings in TFN communities will restrict attendance to 150 People. If anyone has symptoms of Covid-19, please stay home to self-isolate and monitor symptoms and report to our EOC for supports.

- Indoor common area mask requirements for employees as part of the Workplace Safety Order will remain in place until March 25, 2022. Employers may choose to continue to require wearing masks for operational reasons or in certain settings.
- Overnight camps for children and youth order requirements: COVID-19 safety plans are no longer required to be submitted to a medical health officer for overnight camps.
- Masks are encouraged on public transit and BC Ferries but are no longer required under public health order.

Vaccines are the primary tool in our toolbox for managing COVID-19 in the long term and people have stepped up in a big way to get vaccinated, which has made a huge difference in creating high levels of immunity and protection. As we move through this transition period and lift restrictions, we encourage people to respect the comfort levels of those around them.

COVID-19 guidelines are being adjusted to advise that mask use is no longer required when K-12 students return from spring break. Dates for return from spring break vary by school district. Similarly, public health is working with the child care sector to revise guidelines. However, students and staff are supported to continue to use masks and other layers of protection based on their own comfort and risk factors.

Easing restrictions is based on ongoing and careful review of data by the provincial health officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and out TFN EOC.

In addition, effective April 8, 2022, at 12:01 a.m., the following changes will also be made to public health orders:

- Showing the BC Vaccine Card proof of vaccination to access non-essential events, services and businesses will no longer be required. This will be based on our EOC assessment for case numbers in community.

- Individual businesses and organizations can choose to continue to require the BC Vaccine Card proof on their premises.
- The remainder of the Workplace Safety Order will be lifted, which means businesses will transition back to communicable disease plans to reduce risk of all communicable disease.
- The requirement for students residing in residence to be fully vaccinated under the Post-secondary Institution Housing COVID-19 Preventative Measures Order will be repealed.

Vaccinations remain the primary layer of protection that has limited severe health outcomes from COVID-19.

EOC has also increased the supply of rapid tests, helping people monitor and manage mild COVID-19 symptoms at home.

The EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates on the COVID-19 pandemic in B.C. and in our communities. An update will be provided in the coming weeks about the daily information bulletin moving from daily to weekly reporting.

Learn More

visit: http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19_Presentation_22-03-10.pdf

The EOC will maintain being active to support those who may show symptoms or test positive. If you have any questions please call me at anytime 250-726-8281 or email at elmerfrank@telus.net

Respectfully,



Elmer Frank
Emergency Services Manager