

May 7, 2020

Dear Arts, Culture and Recreation Facility Operators

Re: Operating arts, culture and recreation facilities in the Vancouver Coastal Health region during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Provincial Health Officer has not issued any orders requiring the closure of indoor arts, culture and recreation facilities such as community centres, libraries, theatres and rehearsal spaces, museums, art galleries and studios, gyms, fitness centres, swimming pools and ice rinks as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vancouver Coastal Health believes that the risk of COVID-19 transmission in these environments can be mitigated and consistent with BC's Restart Plan, that it is possible to safely operate these facilities at this time.

Facility operators must comply with applicable Provincial Health Officer orders meaning that currently, they must not operate food or beverage services except for take-out or delivery service, they must not offer personal services and must not host mass gatherings involving more than 50 people (but could have more than 50 people on site if physical distancing remains possible given the size of the facility).

Facilities should implement strategies that allow both staff and participants to follow the Provincial Health Officer's physical distancing recommendations and keep themselves 2 metres apart from other people while on site as much as possible. Other strategies, such as plexi-glass barriers between staff and participants that mitigate face-to-face contact, are acceptable alternatives. Participants should not be screened for temperature or symptoms upon entry and should not be required to wear a mask. Signage advising participants who are ill that they should not enter is acceptable. Staff should be sent home if they are sick, and advised to contact their health care provider or 811.

Operators should follow routine cleaning practices with enhanced cleaning of high-touch surfaces or shared equipment. Operators should ensure that handwashing, toilet and shower facilities, if available, are open, well stocked and cleaned regularly.

There may be additional measures related to the type of facility that operators can implement to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 such as limiting the number of participants, modifying programs and services or making changes to the environment by installing hand sanitizer stations or physical barriers.

Vancouver Coastal Health COVID-19 resources for community partners can be found here:
www.sneezesdiseases.com/covid-19-community-resources

For advice regarding specific facilities please contact an Environmental Health Officer at ehvc@vch.ca.

Sincerely,



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Vancouver Coastal Health