

7 May 2020



Good afternoon,

Earlier today, Premier John Horgan announced “*B.C.’s Restart Plan*” – a four-phase approach to safely restarting activity across the province.

The provincial government referred to their plan as an “approach toward a new normal” – not a return to normal. British Columbia is in the first phase of the staggered restart now, and the next phase of the plan is set to begin as early as May 19, 2020.

Premier Horgan stressed that the restart of British Columbia’s economy will not be a “flip of a switch,” and will, instead, be a careful, step-by-step approach. Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry reiterated that British Columbians cannot lose the discipline they have shown over the last several months, or “everything we have worked for will be lost.”

Over the past several weeks, as the Government of B.C. began to develop their strategy for moving the province from crisis response into economic recovery mode, B.C. has been in a unique position compared to other Canadian provinces. Instead of implementing a full lockdown, large portions of the B.C. economy continued to operate over the last several weeks. Construction, manufacturing, some daycare facilities and other businesses that were closed in other provinces, remained open in B.C.

Premier Horgan stressed repeatedly that he does not want people to think of this as a resumption to normal. Reopening will happen slowly over time, and businesses will only start if they can do so safely and with appropriate policies in place.

Below are highlights and a summary of today’s announcement.

Highlights & Points to Note

- B.C. is currently in Phase One of the *Restart Plan*, and Phase Two is set to begin on May 19, 2020.
- Restrictions on large gatherings are here to stay.

- Businesses that were ordered closed will be permitted to reopen in a slow, phased-in approach.
- WorkSafeBC and health officers will provide guidance to businesses on reopening safely (more [here](#)).
- Staying home when sick and not allowing illness of any kind in the workplace will be part of the foreseeable future.
- *CleanBC*, the province's climate change strategy, will be at the centre of BC's economic recovery.
- Reconciliation and partnerships with First Nations will continue to be part of the path forward.
- Border restrictions are staying in place and the 14-day isolation period for every person coming here for essential travel will stay in place.
- BC Parks will reopen for day use on May 14, but people are urged to go to parks close to home and not travel long distances to remote communities.
- Expanded in-person schooling will be voluntary, but many schools are already operating for kids of essential workers and that will continue.
- Phase 4 will not be activated until a vaccine, community immunity, successful treatments or equivalent has been achieved.

Summary of Announcement

Below is a summary of *B.C.'s Restart Plan*. The provincial government's news release on today's announcement can be found [here](#).

Phase One (where we are today)

B.C. is currently in Phase One of the *Restart Plan*, as a number of essential services have continued operating throughout the last several weeks.

Phase Two (mid-May - as of today, this will begin May 19th)

Under Enhanced Protocols

- small social gatherings (two to six people);
- elective surgeries, outpatient clinics and diagnostic tests;
- regulated health services (e.g. dentistry, physiotherapy, chiropractic, massage therapy, speech therapy, in-person counselling);
- personal care services (e.g. hair salons, barbers);
- provincial parks open for day use (May 14);
- retail businesses;
- restaurants, cafes and pubs;
- museums, art galleries and libraries;
- beaches, sports fields and other outdoor spaces;
- transit services;
- child care;
- office-based worksites; and,
- recalling the provincial legislature for regular sittings.

Phase 3 (June - September, if transmission rate remains low or in decline)

Under Enhanced Protocols

- hotels and resorts (June);
- provincial parks and overnight camping (June);
- select entertainment – movie theatres and symphonies (July);
- film and TV production resumes (June/July);
- K-12 education – partial return in June, full return in September); and,
- post-secondary education – mix of online and in-class (September).

Phase 4 (no date given)

Phase 4 is conditional on the threat of COVID-19 being significantly diminished through widespread vaccination, broad successful treatments, evidence of community immunity, or the equivalent.

- Large gatherings over 50 people (conventions, concerts, festivals, live audience professional sports); and,
- International tourism.

NOTE: *It is important to note that, in order for the different organizational sectors outlined above to move forward and reopen according to the plan, they will be asked to develop enhanced protocols aligned with Public Health and Safety Guidelines. In some instances, this will require consideration by the Provincial Health Officer of lifting or modifying existing orders before certain businesses reopen. Business and organizations not covered by an official order may reopen or continue to operate, but they will be expected to adopt and implement sector safety plans as they are finalized.*

If you have any questions at all, or require further analysis, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you on behalf of the Earnscliffe team!

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