

## Joleen Kaminski

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**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** May 6, 2020 4:20 PM  
**To:** Ken McCormack  
**Cc:** Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski  
**Subject:** COVID 19: May 6 - Premier Address

**Importance:** High

CLR Members,

Premier Horgan announced his government's plan to re-open the economy today. Here are the highlights from his media report, and what some are calling a cautious plan.

BC is fairing relatively well in terms of COVID-19 cases. Despite that, there has been 23 more cases bringing the total reported cases to 2,255. Unfortunately 3 more people have died.

The Premier highlighted the challenges to the BC economy and healthcare system as a result of COVID-19. He also expressed gratitude for those who contributed to helping others and keeping the economy going during this pandemic.

These are the highlights to what the Premier called "BC's Restart Plan":

- Won't be a flip of the switch
- Each step will be informed by health experts and the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO)
- The Premier stressed the need to continue to limit the cases of COVID-19 and to maintain our discipline and remain safe.
- He announced Four Phases toward a "new normal". These phases will be spaced out over months and will cover areas that include personal care, social interaction, and economic activity
  
- **Phase 1** is where we are today with enhanced resources for hospitals and health care; child care for essential services; on line and in-class learning (K-12) for essential service workers; non-essential business closures; essential businesses identified (including construction)
  
- **Phase 2** will be possible in the weeks ahead but will depend on people maintaining a high standard of personal conduct (possibly starting May 19 - after the long weekend)
  - People will need to focus on maintaining excellent personal hygiene; stay home if they are sick; focus on environmental hygiene; and ensure physical modifications to ensure distancing.
  - Safe social interactions will also be possible
    - *small* gatherings will be permitted (need to use common sense and keep social circles tight).
    - elective surgeries resume
    - medical appointments can resume (ie: dentist, counselling)
    - Provincial parks will reopen for day use (will happen on May 14 – before the long weekend)
    - More retail businesses will re-open (supported by WorkSafeBC)
    - Expanded in person schooling for K-12 (voluntary)
    - Legislature will resume
  
- **Phase 3** will happen over the next months depending on the outcomes of the previous two phases.
  - Under enhanced protocols, the following could re-open:
    - More parks open, camping resumes
    - Film and TV production

- Movie theatres re-open
  - Personal services like spas and non-medical massage
  - Hotels and resorts
- **Phase 4** will not happen until there is either a vaccine; “community” immunity has been achieved; or broad successful treatment for COVID-19 has been found
    - Until then, no large gatherings (over 50) will be permitted.
  - The Premier says that success of these plans rely on a number of principles and values:
    - Strong health controls (large scale testing; rapid identification; contact tracing; 100% commitment to social distancing, handwashing, and following the health officials and PHO orders; total commitment to isolating if you are sick).
    - Strong border controls including mandatory quarantine for returning travellers and a limit on non-essential travel.
    - Supporting local business.
    - Standing together as a province.
  - Additional highlights:
    - He called on people not to discriminate against anyone of Asian descent. Completely unacceptable.
    - He called climate change the “challenge of our time” and insisted that Clean BC – Climate Action Plan needs to be at the centre of our recovery.
    - He mentioned the need to continue with indigenous reconciliation.
    - We need to ensure our healthcare workers have the resources they need.

## **Q&A**

When asked by reporters if people should consider it acceptable to visit family and vacation properties now. He responded that people should be using good judgement but that people should still not be making plans to travel and visit with family until Phase 3.

Reporters asked if it was immediately now okay to get together in small gatherings. Dr. Henry responded that no it isn't the right time yet and there are still more cases reported today. She said that we should not expect this until the middle of May at the earliest. There is more to be done yet before Phase 2 starts. This is just a plan going forward. We should expect more openings after the May long weekend.

He was asked about the potential for travel within Canada. The Premier said that when the time is acceptable for such travel (late summer?), it will be a supply and demand issue. If people feel safe enough to get on planes and it can be done safely, then it may be possible.

BC Parks and Recreation are working with local communities on trying to find ways to make sure kids sports can resume over the summer at some point.

When asked if it was acceptable for people to visit with their Mom on Mother's Day, Dr. Henry said that it would still be too early to do that this year.

The Premier was asked what the government says to parents and teachers with respect to their children's safety in schools and who may be concerned about their kids returning to school. He mentioned that no children will be forced to return to school this school year (and full return may not even occur in September), but that the option will be available for parents who want to send their kids to school. He mentioned that he and Education Minister Fleming will announce more on this next week.

The Premier announced that he has offered BC as a location for professional NHL hockey and CFL football games to kickstart the reopening of their season (televised only - without fans present to watch).

Here is a link to the Premier's announcement for additional information:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0026-000826>

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