

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: November 20, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update: November 20

Importance: High

CLR Members,

Yet another weekend upon us and if recent weeks are any indication, it is likely that we will be hearing about a frighteningly high number of new cases of COVID and yet more deaths. It is my sincere hope that all of you are staying safe and taking every precaution to ensure that those in your “bubbles” at home and at work are also safe.

As of today there are 6,929 active cases of the coronavirus in B.C. Of these, 217 British Columbians are in the hospital, and 59 of them are in intensive care units.

COVID-19 is more than a physical risk. There are also mental health implications resulting from all that COVID has brought to us and our families. Please remember that the Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan (CIRP) program is available to you, your families and your employees. If you need them, they are very easy to reach and it could be the best decision you ever made. <https://www.constructionrehabplan.com/>

Provincial Update

If you are following the news, you may already be aware of the new orders imposed by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and the BC government as a result of the second wave of COVID-19. Regardless, below is an update along with recent media articles. Highlights of the new orders include:

- With some variations, it is now required that everyone wear a mask in all indoor public areas for all public and retail staff and customers.
- The regional orders that were previously announced for the Lower Mainland are being extended to the rest of the province and come in effect immediately and for a two-week period (until at least December 7).
- We are expected now to only socialize with our immediate household. Those who live alone can socialize with 1-2 people.
- We are expected to reduce interactions as much as possible outside the home.
- Religious services in person are suspended.
- All intense physical indoor activities in gyms, rec centres, etc (hot yoga, high intensity interval training and spin classes) must stop immediately.
 - All other group fitness activities indoors can continue to operate as long as they adhere to the updated guidelines
 - For outdoor sports and physical activity, Phase 3 will continue, with no spectators or travel outside of local activity permitted.
- Anyone who is able to work from home should do so.
- Active inspections will be increased in all business settings.
- People travelling from other provinces are asked to postpone their trip. If that is not possible, they are asked to minimize interactions and try to follow B.C.’s guidelines.

Repercussions for not following these rules will be announced over the next week. If any are implemented, they will be based on the Public Safety Act, which allows for police to be called and fines to be issued.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>

Here are media links:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/b-c-brings-in-sweeping-new-measures-to-control-covid-19-including-mandatory-masks-1.5808617>

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/b-c-announces-new-restrictions-on-social-gatherings-travel-provincewide-1.5196709>

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<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/b-c-announces-mask-mandate-temporary-social-lockdown-for-entire-province-1.5196004>

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Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, is aligning the Province's ticketing measures with the provincial health officer's (PHO) orders, giving police and other provincial enforcement officers the ability to issue violation tickets for additional contraventions in the Vancouver Coastal Health and Fraser Health regions. Here is the link to the BC Government Emergency Preparedness News Release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0061-001940>

If you are following the post election strategies of the BC government following the election as I am, you will be awaiting the announcement of the cabinet. Premier Horgan has announced that he will be announcing his Cabinet on November 26. At that time, mandate letters for each Minister will be released as well. The mandate letters provide instructions from the Premier in terms of what he expects each Minister and Ministry to accomplish. The legislature is set to reconvene on December 7. One of the things on the agenda for discussion when the legislature sits will be the \$1,000 non-taxable grant for eligible families promised during the provincial election campaign.

More information on these topics can be found here:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7470039/john-horgan-covid-presser/>

<https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/legislature-to-return-dec-7-1-000-benefit-to-hopefully-roll-out-by-christmas-premier-1.24241769>

Federal Update

In response to the challenges facing BC businesses, including access to capital, there has been strong demand for the federal government's grant and subsidy programs. One measure of support is the \$1.5 billion Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF), delivered by Canada's Regional Development Agencies and intended for small- and medium-sized enterprises that have been unable to access other federal relief measures, putting jobs and livelihoods at risk.

This week, the government announced over \$1.7 million for business ecosystem support in BC. This RRRF funding for seven organizations will ultimately support enterprises in all stages of the business lifecycle, from nurturing start-ups to the ongoing development of mature firms. Many of the programs being funded are already under way, bringing immediate support for local companies, and making a difference for families and communities across the West. This funding from Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) is expected to help maintain more than 11,000 jobs in businesses across the province, and is part of the government's commitment to create one million jobs across Canada.

For more information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2020/11/government-of-canada-provides-targeted-support-for-business-to-help-maintain-over-11000-jobs-in-british-columbia.html>

Information on the Regional Relief & Recovery Fund: <https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/20059.asp>

In light of the escalating numbers of COVID cases, the CLR office will be making some changes in the coming weeks through to the New Year. All staff remain working full time and can be reached on their cell phones or by email, but only 2-3 staff members will be in the office at any time. If you need any of us, please reach out by phone or email. Do not come to the office unannounced. Effective immediately, our doors are locked to anyone but couriers and mail delivery. ***We will also be closing the office between Christmas and New Years (12:00 PM on December 24, 2020 – 8:00 AM on January 4, 2021 inclusive).***

Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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