

# BC's Restart Step 3 – What Does This Mean for Your Practice?

Following Premier Horgan, Minister Dix and Dr. Henry's announcement on June 29, 2021, BC looks to transition to [Step 3 of BC's Restart Plan](#) as of July 1, 2021.

The Provincial Health Officer's (PHO) [statement](#), released June 17 sees a transition from COVID-19 Safety Plans to communicable disease plans, starting July 1, 2021.

[Guidance in Step 3 of BC's Restart Plan includes the following safety precautions:](#)

## NEW

- Masks are recommended in public indoor settings for all people 12 and older who are not yet fully vaccinated. The [mask mandate order](#) under the Emergency Program Act will be lifted July 1, 2021.
  - Engage in careful social contact.
- If you or anyone in your family feels sick, stay home and get tested immediately.

## What does this mean for your practice?

WorkSafeBC has information on [Preparing for Step 3 of BC's Restart: Communicable Disease Prevention](#). As of July 1, 2021, WorkSafeBC notes that employers will no longer be required to maintain a COVID-19 Safety Plan and will instead transition to communicable disease prevention.

- Your practice must ensure that fundamental measures of communicable disease prevention are in place, including appropriate handwashing and personal hygiene practices, appropriate ventilation, and staying home when sick.

**Your practice must also be prepared to implement or maintain additional measures at times when the risk of communicable disease in your region or workplace is elevated, as advised, and directed by public health.**

**Download WorkSafeBC's [Communicable disease prevention: A guide for employers](#)**

To provide a better understanding of workplace requirements to implement communicable disease

prevention, WorkSafeBC has posted [OHS Guideline G-P2-21 Communicable disease prevention](#) in advance of its effective date of July 1, 2021

### **Masks in Optometry Practice**

Infection Prevention and Control remains a priority and Optometrists should use their professional judgement to determine appropriate PPE for themselves and their patients during the provision of optometric services. This is for the protection of you, your staff and your patients.

The College is seeking definitive guidance from the BCDCD with respect to mask use in community optometry practice. When guidance is received, we will update this notice accordingly.

In the meantime, you may wish to continue to refer to the College's June 2, 2020, Guidelines for Return to in Person Community Care document and its section on Personal Protective Equipment until updated guidance from the BC Centres for Disease Control or the PHO is received. The June 2020 document can be found here:

[http://optometrybc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Return-to-Practice-Guidelines\\_June-2-2020.pdf](http://optometrybc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Return-to-Practice-Guidelines_June-2-2020.pdf).

Check [B.C.'s response to COVID-19](#) page regularly for the latest ease of restrictions and amendments.

We will update you as we hear more from WorkSafe and Public Health.