

Public Service Workplace COVID 19- Measures Northern Health Authority

December 15, 2021 [updated]

The Medical Health Officer for the Northern Health Authority has issued a new [Gatherings and Events Order](#) to continue COVID-19 Protocols for all areas in the Northern Health Region including west of Kitwanga. This order is in effect on December 9, 2021 and expires January 31, 2022.

While parts of the order do not apply to the BC Public Service, workplaces in the affected areas must update their [Communicable Disease Prevention Plan](#) to increase protections against transmission of COVID-19. Workplace Health and Safety has provided the table on pages 2 to 3 for workplaces to update their Communicable Disease Prevention Plan to meet the Northern Health Authority order.

All employees and your Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee must be notified and trained on the increased COVID-19 Safety Protocols for the workplace.

For information on Provincial Health orders or specific Health Authority orders and guidance, please see the [PHO Orders website](#).

Northern Health Region Public Service Workplace COVID-19 Protocols

Item	COVID-19 Protocol
Plan Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicable Disease Prevention Plan
Staff Daily Health Check	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory • Provides an added layer of protection during this increased period of transmission. See Daily Health Check for BC Public Service Workplaces (PDF, 298KB) for information on setting up daily health checks
Hand Sanitizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-instate or continue COVID-19 Safety Plan levels of hand sanitizer
Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal contract cleaning • Cleaning supplies available for staff to clean in and clean out
Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue use, or reinstall where 2-metre physical distancing between staff and clients/public can not be maintained
Client/Public Masks in the Workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the October 29 Provincial Health Officer Face Coverings Order. Unless exempt, public or clients must wear a mask while: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In or transiting indoor public spaces such as lobbies, entrance ways, hallways, public washrooms, elevators and stairwells ○ Being served by staff at counters, service areas, meeting rooms, etc. • Due to the essential nature of BC Public Service services, we will not refuse service to clients who are not wearing a mask • Unmasked clients will be served where there is a barrier in place or 2-metre distancing, or an alternate service delivery method will be put in place • Describe measures that can be put in place for service to clients who are not wearing masks
Staff Mask Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff must comply with the PHO face coverings order including wearing a mask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While in or transiting indoor public spaces ○ When serving or assisting clients/public in service areas (counters, meeting rooms), waiting areas, lobbies, etc., unless there is a barrier in place between the employee and the client/public • Staff have the personal choice to wear a mask anytime in the workplace
Physical Distancing Between Clients or Clients & Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required when there is not a barrier in place between clients and staff

Occupancy Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend reinstating COVID-19 occupancy limits in public areas
Workplace Meeting Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use largest room available for any meetings • For staff-only meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff are not required to wear masks once seated • For meetings with clients, public or non-public service staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All parties must wear masks unless there are barriers in place ○ Clients who live together or traveled together do not need to distance from each other, but must distance from staff and wear masks
Lunchrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No occupancy limit required • Mask use except when seated while eating or drinking • Hand washing/sanitizing prior to using lunchroom • Avoid shared food, plates, utensils, etc. • Clean in and clean out
Essential in Person Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status quo
Meetings held at a rental venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Safety Plan required • Consult with Workplace Health & Safety
Field Work, Meeting Clients or Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No COVID-19 restriction on travel within Northern Health Region or any other region of the province • Masks must be worn in any indoor public spaces • Wear a mask if 2-metre physical distancing cannot be maintained or there is no barrier between staff and public/clients
Shared Vehicle Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No limits on staff-only use, but staff must wear a mask and maximize distance (e.g., diagonal seating) when possible • If transporting clients, maximize distance (e.g., diagonal seating) from staff in the car and all occupants over 12 years old must be masked
Workplace Exercise Areas /Gyms or Change Rooms	<p>Gyms: Open; follow PHO guidance and orders, Communicable Disease Prevention Plan needed</p> <p>Change rooms: Open; Clean in, Clean out</p>