

## Joleen Kaminski

---

**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** November 9, 2020 10:07 AM  
**Cc:** Ken McCormack; Paul Strangway  
**Subject:** COVID 19 Update - November 9

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CLR Members,

With weeks of ever increasing numbers of reported cases of COVID-19 (particularly in the lower mainland), the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) says the province needs to take a step back from its restart plan and has issued the province's region-specific PHO Order which went into effect on Saturday, November 7 and will remain in effect for 2 weeks (until November 23). The order came as the PHO announced another 567 new cases of the virus, the second-highest the province has ever recorded in a single day. The record, 589 cases, was set just last Friday. The province reported one new death. Virtually all the new cases were in the Fraser Health region (411) and the Vancouver Coastal Health region (122). Twenty-two new cases were in the Interior Health region, nine in the Northern Health region and three on Vancouver Island. The PHO links the rising number of cases to indoor social gatherings and a corresponding increase in hospitalizations which exceeded 100 last week for the first time since April. While the PHO says that such orders are a last resort, she maintains that right now, they are necessary to safeguard the health and safety of British Columbians, and to ensure essential services, businesses and schools can remain open. While the new order has legal force, the PHO said the province's focus will be on education rather than enforcement.

BC has reported a total 17,716 cases as of this past Saturday. For Canada as a whole, there have now been 264,113 cases with 10,522 deaths.

Specifics of the order include:

- Residents are banned from visiting each others' private homes for two weeks. The order applies to social gatherings of "any size" with people other than one's immediate household, regardless of whether it is fewer than 50 people or physical distancing is observed.
- Weddings and funerals are permitted, but only with members of one's household and must not have receptions.
- Restaurants are unaffected by the new order, so long as they are closely following pre-existing public health orders.
- The order bans travel for sports into or out of the region.
- It "strongly recommends" a freeze on non-essential travel out of the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health regions, without implementing an outright ban.
- While individual fitness gym activities are unaffected by the order, indoor group physical activities such as spin classes, yoga and group fitness are banned until they have updated the COVID-19 safety plans approved by their regional medical health officer.
- Indoor sports where physical distancing cannot be maintained are also suspended.
- The order does not apply to activities that are part of a school-based program.
- All workplaces will also be required to conduct active, in-person screening for COVID-19.
- Added vigilance around physical distancing and mask wearing, particularly in smaller spaces, must be implemented.
- Businesses that are unable to stick to their COVID-19 safety plans will be shut down.
- Party buses and limos are also banned from operating.

- Religious centres are not considered “social gatherings” and remain unaffected, so long as they stick to the 50 person limit.
- The new order does not affect daycares or schools, which the PHO said the province was focused on keeping open.

See this link for more information on the order: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/lower-mainland>

At the same time, federal health officials have announced that the spread of COVID-19 in Canada is accelerating with the setting of a new COVID-19 record of 4,248 cases reported in a single day on Saturday. This coming only two days after the previous one-day record of 3,922 had been set. To put the situation in further context, since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been nine days with more than 3,000 new cases logged across the country – all within the past 10 days. Many countries are experiencing a similar surge in the spread of the virus. In Europe, many countries are reinstating lockdowns and other restrictions due to elevated virus activity.

The following link is this morning’s media release from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/11/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-november-9-2020.html>

To sum it up, things are not looking good right now and the recent number of cases is a harsh reminder of the need for us all to remain diligent and not let “COVID fatigue” make us lazy or complacent. One Canadian expert was quoted this past weekend in the media as saying, “It’s really important for people to restrain themselves from unnecessary socialization. The message has not changed; it’s just that the situation is now more dire”.

Please continue to stay safe and well. We are all counting on each other.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

Construction Labour Relations Association (CLRA) of BC  
97 – Sixth Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8



**O** 604-524-4911

**C** 604-968-4911 | **F** 604-524-3925

**E** [kenm@clra-bc.com](mailto:kenm@clra-bc.com) | **W** [www.clra-bc.com](http://www.clra-bc.com)

*CONFIDENTIALITY DISCLAIMER The information contained in this transmission may contain privileged and confidential information. It is intended for review only by the person(s) named above. Dissemination, distribution or duplication of this communication is strictly prohibited by all recipients unless expressly authorized otherwise. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message. Thank you.*