

New Covid-19 Directives as of Oct 26th, Oct 30th and Nov 7th, 2020 and How They Impact the Operations at the Scandinavian Community Centre

Hello All,

The SCC Covid-19 Plans continues to be in effect, as we want to be as safe as possible and keep others as safe as possible too. Included are some important Covid-19 updates related to the Scandinavian Community Centre.

Wearing Face Masks @ Scandinavian Community Centre

Effective immediately, the SCCS Covid-19 Committee is revising its stand on wearing masks when visiting the Centre, to match an announcement that Dr. Bonnie Henry made on Monday, October 26.

On October 26, Dr. Henry announced that masks are now expected to be worn in all public, indoor spaces in B.C. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0317-001895>

As of October 30, 2020, the Scandinavian Community Centre's Covid-19 Plan states that **masks are now expected to be worn in all public, indoor spaces at the Centre.**

Groups that have convened at the Centre on October 31, 2020, and forward, have been informed of this change prior to their respective bookings.

What does this mean? Adults are expected to wear masks at all times within the Centre.

For language classes with children, children may take off their masks while they are in their classroom if the teacher allows it. Children are expected to wear their masks if leaving the classroom, i.e. going to the washroom or other ventures outside of the classroom.

The classroom is the space within the Centre that has been booked for the class.

Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley restrictions

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

A temporary ban on social gatherings has been placed for residents in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.

This order is in effect from November 7, 2020 at 10:00 pm to November 23, 2020 at 12:00 pm

How does this impact operations at the Scandinavian Centre? Not at all at the moment. There are no **social** gatherings, as per definition of the ban, at the Centre during this time period.

Formal meetings are allowed. Although not applicable to the Centre, people can still go out and eat in restaurants, have trades people coming into the home doing repairs, and go to the movie theatre. (Educational activities are among the activities that also are allowed to continue, see next section for detailed information related directly to language classes.)

The Centre will not book any social gatherings as per definition in the ban notice until the time when the ban is **officially** lifted, and **after** the SCC Covid-19 Plans have been formally updated.

Order of the Provincial Health Officer – GATHERINGS AND EVENTS (Oct 30, 2020)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-gatherings-events.pdf>

This updated order addressing “GATHERINGS AND EVENTS” was issued on October 30th, 2020 with added restrictions applicable to **all** of BC and **no set expiry date**.

Educational activities are among the activities that are allowed to continue as per this order under first section “WHEREAS:” point 8.

8.For certainty, this Order does not apply to health care related events such as immunization clinics, health authority COVID-19 testing centres and blood donation clinics; court sittings wherever they occur; workers at a worksite when engaged in their work activities; workers living at a work camp; **students, teachers or instructors at a school or postsecondary educational institution when engaged in educational activities**; individuals attending regularly scheduled classes or practices in a recreation centre, pool or fitness facility;

What about Christmas Bake Sales and alike?

Presented under the same paragraph 8 referred to above, the “GATHERING AND EVENTS” order **does not apply to vendor markets**:

“8. For certainty, this Order does not apply to individuals attending an episodic vending market such as a Farmers Market or a Community Market which is subject to the Vending Markets Order”

The Vending Market Order includes, but is not limited to, these two key statements:

“VENDORS

1. If you sell food, you must comply with the following conditions:
 - a. you must not provide samples of food for tasting at a market; and
 - b. you must sell food which you prepare at a market in single-use, closed, take-out containers.

MANAGERS

1. You must encourage customers to maintain a two metre distance from one another in line-ups to a market entrance, vendors’ stalls, washrooms and other places where line-ups may occur, by placing distance indicators.”

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-vending-merchandise-at-markets.pdf>

Lots of information to take in, but if we keep calm, keep kind and stay safe we will be ok.

The SCC Covid-19 Committee is committed to keep pace with implementing any and all added Covid-19 restriction and be a cautious, late adapter of relaxing and lifting Covid-19 restrictions.

Thank you for doing your part in preventing the spread of Covid-19!

Best regards,

SCCS Covid-19 Committee