



NOTICE OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER

(Pursuant to Section 49 *Public Health Act*, S.B.C. 2008)

FACE COVERINGS (COVID-19) ORDER – MARCH 10, 2022

The *Public Health Act* is at:

<http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/content/complete/statreg/08028/?xsl=/templates/browse.xsl>
(excerpt enclosed)

TO: BRITISH COLUMBIANS AND VISITORS TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

WHEREAS

- A. On December 3, 2021, I made an order entitled *Face Coverings (COVID – 19)*;
- B. The number of people who have become ill with COVID-19 and who have required hospitalization or ICU admission has begun to decline, reflecting the trend in other jurisdictions;
- C. Over the coming months the weather will begin to warm, and the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is expected to be reduced consequent upon people spending less time indoors, as well as other possible seasonal factors that may influence virus transmission;
- D. I have reason to believe that as long as
 - (a) the vaccination rate of the population of the Province remains high and continues to provide protection against severe illness from COVID-19;
 - (b) the health care system is able to operate without the undue stress caused by caring for people who are seriously ill with COVID-19;
 - (c) there are no repeated outbreaks of infection with COVID-19 in particular populations or places, or with respect to particular businesses, services or events;
 - (d) faith communities, schools, post-secondary institutions, health care providers, employers, business operators, service providers, transportation providers, food and liquor service providers and event organizers assess, and take measures where necessary to address the risk of infection with COVID-19 of their communities, students, patients, employees, clients, passengers, patrons and participants; or

- (e) there is no other reason for me to reasonably believe that it is necessary to order that face coverings must be worn in order to protect the public health;

it is not necessary for there to be a province wide order requiring the wearing of face coverings.

THEREFORE, take notice that

- (a) the *Face Coverings (COVID-19) Order* is repealed effective 12:01 A.M. on Friday, March 11, 2022, except as it applies to school students, school staff members and visitors to school spaces, and
- (b) the *Face Coverings (COVID-19) Order* is repealed with respect to school students, school staff members and visitors to school spaces in both public and independent schools effective the end of the final school day before the school's spring break is scheduled to begin. For public schools, information about spring break dates by school district may be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-safe-schools>

Recognizing that the risk differs in different regions of the province, and that medical health officers are in the best position to assess local circumstances and to determine whether steps need to be taken to reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19, this Notice does not affect the authority of a medical health officer to make an order requiring the wearing of face coverings in the whole or part of the geographic area of the Province for which the medical health officer is designated.

DATED THIS: 10th day of March 2022

SIGNED: 

Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

DELIVERY BY: Posting to the BC Government the BC Centre for Disease Control websites.

Enclosure: Excerpt of the *Public Health*

ENCLOSURE

Excerpt of the *Public Health Act* [SBC 2008] c. 28

Termination of orders

46 An order ceases to have effect on the date or in the circumstances stated in the order, or, if no date or circumstances are stated, as follows:

- (a) if an order is served by posting it in or on a place, on the date the order is removed by a health officer;
- (b) if an order is served by publishing it, on the date a health officer publishes notice that the order has been terminated;
- (c) in the case of an order to take preventive measures, on the date the person subject to the order receives notice from the person who is responsible for administering or supervising the preventive measures that the preventive measures are no longer required;
- (d) in any other case, on the date a health officer provides notice by any means to the person served with the order that the order has been terminated.