

**New Health Order Information for Sport  
December 3, 2020**

Today, the Province of BC issued the written [order](#) for the new restrictions on sport with the intention to limit the risk of COVID-19 transmission from indoor group activities. viaSport BC hosted a webinar for Provincial Sport Organisations today to share more detail and interpretation of the order. Here are the relevant sections for the volleyball community:

- **All indoor and outdoor sports for people 19 years of age and older are suspended.**  
This includes all indoor and outdoor volleyball for adults.
- **“A person may permit a place, other than a private residence or vacation accommodation, to be used for, or may provide, sport for children or youth if the following conditions are met:**
  - a. participants maintain a physical distance of three metres from one another and do not engage in handshaking, high fives, hugging or similar behaviour;**
  - b. the focus is on activities that have a low risk of COVID-19 virus transmission;**
  - c. there are no spectators unless the presence of a spectator is necessary in order to provide care to a child or youth”**

All youth volleyball programming is permitted but must meet Volleyball BC’s Transition Measures (Phase 2) in the Return to Play Plan which include the following requirements:

- Activities must be limited to skills development and those that permit physical distancing at all times (eg. individual serving, passing, attacking practice)
  - No competitive volleyball as this does not permit social distancing.
  - Participants must maintain social distancing at all times on and off the court.
  - No blocking at the net.
  - For all Transition Measure requirements see **Appendix 2** of our [Return to Volleyball Plan](#)
- All games and competitions are suspended until further notice.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

- The new Provincial Health Order stipulates that participants must maintain **3 metres** from one another and do not engage in handshaking, high fives, hugging or similar behavior. This is an increase from the 2 metres physical distance previously stipulated. If you are providing programming, please ensure that all skills and drills ensure 3 metres physical distance at all times.

- The Board of Directors for Volleyball BC have amended Transition Measures guidelines to include the following:  
*“No more than **12 individuals** on a court (6 per side) while maintaining physical distance at all times. Volleyball clubs and associations are reminded that under Transition Measures (Phase 2), physical distancing is required at all times on and off court, and while 12 is the maximum under these guidelines, each group must determine whether that is possible given the size of the particular facility they are using.”*  
You may now practice skills and drills on court with up to 12 participants (6 per side) during Transition Measures (Phase 2). This permits 3 metres distance between participants and exceeds the BCRPA recommended guidelines of 5 square metres per person engaging in recreational activity. However, every organization must responsibly assess whether this number of participants can be accommodated with physical distancing in the facility they are using and, if it is not, they must reduce the number of players on-court.
- **Non-essential travel should be restricted. Travel to, from and between communities for team athletic activities like games, competitions, training and practice is prohibited.**  
viaSport BC are still working on additional guidance that will clarify what “community” means. However, it looks likely that this definition will indicate that individuals may travel to their “home club” for sport. An individual’s “home club” may be in their municipality or it may be in the local area but it does not involve overnight or long distance travel. An individual can travel to attend activity at their home club, but a team cannot travel from their home club to play or practice together at another community.
- **There can be no spectators at any sport activities. The only people allowed to attend sport activities are those that provide care to a participant or player. For example, providing first aid.**
- **High performance athletes, professional athletes and professional performers like dancers are not included in the order. To qualify as a high performance athlete, you must be:**
  - **Identified by the Canadian Sports Institute Pacific as a high performance athlete affiliated with an accredited provincial or national sports organization**
  - **Continuing to follow the safety guidelines of your provincial sports organization**viaSport BC clarified that high performance athletes (as designated above) are exempt from the restrictions on travel. However, they are not exempt from the restrictions on activities: high performance athletes over the age of 19 years may only engage in individual training at this point while high performance athletes under the age of 19 years may engage in structured group training that is in line with Transition Measures (Phase 2).

Although the current Order is set to expire on December 7, 2020, viaSport BC have advised us that it is likely to stay in place for at least a few weeks. The intention of the restrictions is to minimize the number of people we interact with and reduce travel in order to significantly reduce COVID-19 transmission. Please support us in upholding these new restrictions and helping us to return as quickly as possible.



This has been a challenging and fluid situation over the last few weeks! There have been a lot of changes and I would like to thank you for your positivity and support as we continue to ensure that volleyball can be played safely. We are fully committed to ensuring that we send you the latest information as soon as we possibly can.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emma Gibbons", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emma Gibbons  
Chief Executive Officer