

December 3, 2021

Dear School District Superintendents and Principals,

The Interior Health Gatherings and Events Order was lifted on December 1, 2021. As such, Interior Health Medical Health Officers are removing the additional recommendations that were outlined in the Interior Health Schools Letter dated September 1, 2021. Schools in the Interior region will now follow the guidelines for gatherings and events outlined by the Ministry of Education:

- There are no capacity limits for school gatherings and events that bring together students and staff from the same school;
- Capacity limits apply to school extracurricular activities, social gatherings, inter-school and other events that include individuals beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers from the same school:
  - Indoor: 50 individuals or 50% operating capacity, whichever is greater.
  - Outdoor: 5,000 individuals or 50% seated capacity, whichever is greater.

Schools should not require proof of vaccination for participation in extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including concerts, festivals and inter-school sporting events). However, Interior Health recommends that schools strongly encourage only fully vaccinated spectators (those aged 12+ who are not students or staff) to attend an event in person, and for schools to provide virtual attendance options for spectators who are not fully vaccinated.

Community venues/locations may still request proof of vaccination for school gatherings and events in the community (e.g. movie theatres, indoor skating rinks or arenas). Please communicate with venue operators in advance of any proposed activity/event, to confirm the venue's specific policies and procedures, and to not plan events at venues where students and staff may be asked to provide proof of vaccination.

Interior Health encourages [schools](#) to follow the [Provincial Restriction](#) webpage as well as the [Interior Health](#) webpage for the most up-to-date information.

The K-12 Rapid Response Team ([covid.response@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:covid.response@sd23.bc.ca)) will continue to provide support to all schools in the Interior region, including independent and First Nations schools.

Sincerely,



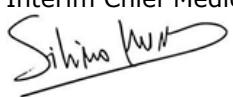
Dr. Sue Pollock  
Interim Chief Medical Health Officer



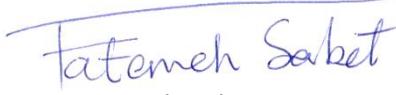
Dr. Carol Fenton  
Medical Health Officer



Dr. Karin Goodison  
Medical Health Officer



Dr. Silvina Mema  
Medical Health Officer



Dr. Fatemeh Sabet  
Medical Health Officer

We recognize and acknowledge that we are collectively gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the seven Interior Region First Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate, and work together. This region is also home to 15 Chartered Métis Communities. It is with humility that we continue to strengthen our relationships with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples across the Interior.