



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY MEDIA RELEASE

September 11, 2020
For immediate release

Beginning September 14, face coverings will be required in all RDCK recreation facilities

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is beginning to safely re-open our recreation facilities for programs with limited or reduced activities to accommodate the guidelines and recommendation of local health authorities. Beginning September 14, 2020, non-medical masks or face coverings will be required when entering and moving through all common areas of indoor recreation facilities, except when exercising or performing physical activity. Wearing a mask combined with other important preventative measures, such as frequent hand washing and physical distancing, will help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Using only a mask is not enough to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Exemptions – Face Masks are not required when:

- A medical professional has advised that wearing a mask may pose a health risk to or impair an individual
- Wearing a mask would create a health or safety risk to the wearer as determined by federal, provincial or local regulators or Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) guidelines
- An individual is physically unable to put on or take off the mask without assistance
- An individual has trouble breathing or cannot remove the mask without help
- An individual is deaf or hard of hearing and relies on facial and mouth movements to receive communication
- An individual is a baby or toddler under two years of age

Face Masks Do's

- Make sure your mask completely covers your mouth and nose
- Put on your mask properly using the tie loops or elastic bands that secure behind your head
- Wear your mask snug around your face and adjust it as necessary throughout the day
- When taking off our mask and putting it down, place it with the outside down on a tissue; if a tissue is not available, clean the surface on which you placed it down afterwards
- Wash your hands and face after removing the mask and before touching your face
- Keep your mask clean and launder it once a day in warm water
- Store your mask in a clean and dry space or properly dispose of it

Face Mask Don't's

- Don't wear your mask under your nose and mouth
- Don't let a strap dangle down or cross the straps
- Don't touch or adjust your face mask without cleaning your hands before and after
- Don't wear your mask on your head or around your neck or arm
- Don't let your mask obstruct your vision
- Don't lay your mask on a surface that could be contaminated or contaminate the surface
- Don't use a mask if it is damaged in any way

"We are looking forward to inviting users back into our facilities to take part in more programming and arena sports," Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services. "While we are re-opening only certain areas of recreation, we want all users to know that we have not forgotten about you and are working steadily to be able to offer more programs and services safely during these COVID-19 times. It is important to take a phased approach to ensure the safety of our staff and our patrons."

Recreation and park services are reviewed regularly as new information and protocols become available. The RDCK appreciates the patience of all our users as we implement new expanded services with COVID-19 policies and procedures in place.

For up to date information regarding openings and closures of specific areas of recreation, please visit www.rdck.ca/recreation.

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit www.rdck.ca.

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