



# Media Release

August 20, 2021  
For immediate release

## **RDCK Board announces measures to lower risk of COVID-19 transmission**

### **Masks to be required in public spaces of RDCK buildings and recreation facilities**

Nelson, BC: Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases and low vaccination rates in parts of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) the Board of Directors is announcing measures to help lower the risk of virus transmission in RDCK facilities. Most critically, it is now required that masks be worn by staff and the public inside the common areas of any RDCK facility unless they are actively participating in a recreational activity as directed by the RDCK. These measures will be in place until further notice.

“We are implementing these measures due to the increase in of COVID-19 cases in the region,” said Aimee Watson, Chair of the RDCK Board. “Wearing masks and complying with these measures will help limit the risk of transmission throughout our communities, and will help keep our staff, residents and visitors safe.”

Effective today, Friday, August 20, masks must be worn in all RDCK public spaces, including all publicly accessible parts of recreation facilities and RDCK offices in Nelson, Creston and Nakusp.

Effective Monday, August 23, masks must be worn at all times inside exercise facilities, including while exercising or using the fitness centres. People who are unable to wear a mask due to a health condition are exempt from mask requirements. People who are unable to wear a mask must maintain at least 3m distance at all times when in the facility.

Also effective Monday, August 23, only required caregivers and event personnel are allowed to attend an event, spectators are not permitted.

These new measures follow similar measures in place in the Central Okanagan. Other measures currently in place for Step 3 of BC’s Restart plan are not affected. Please follow all guidelines and signage in place when visiting any facility.

Full mask guidelines are available on the RDCK website: [Mask Safety Guidelines August 2021](#)

The COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, and new measures or changes may be announced at any time. The RDCK reminds everyone to continue to be vigilant and to follow the guidance from the local and provincial authorities to keep yourself and your loved ones safe from COVID-19. Learn more from the following resources:

- BC Centre for Disease Control: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

- BC Ministry of Health: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
- Interior Health Authority: <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/covid-19/>
- Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>
- If you and your family members develop symptoms, call your health-care provider or 8-1-1 (BC Health Link) to discuss any need for testing and follow-up. You can also use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

*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](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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