



Snuneymuxw

First Nation

www.snuneymuxw.ca

April 23, 2021

Update on Provincial Travel Restrictions Effective Immediately

Dear Snuneymuxw,

The Province of BC has just announced restrictions to reduce travel throughout the province in response to the significant increase in COVID-19 cases in BC. These travel restrictions for non-essential travel in BC are in place to stop the spread of COVID-19 and variants of concern. This order **prevents residents from travelling between Health Authorities for non-essential travel**, including:

- Vacations, weekend getaways and tourism activities
- Visiting family or friends for social reasons
- Recreation activities

This order is **effective immediately and in place until May 25**.

The order combines B.C.'s five health authorities into three regions of the province. **Travel into and out of the regions for non-essential reasons is not allowed and is now prohibited by law**. The regions are:

1. Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley (Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health)
2. Northern/Interior (Northern Health and Interior Health, including Bella Coola Valley, the Central Coast and Hope)
3. Vancouver Island (Vancouver Island Health)

Essential travel between regions is allowed. Essential reasons include:

- Returning to your principal residence, moving or helping someone move
- Work, both paid and unpaid (volunteer)
- Commercial transportation of goods
- Getting health care or social services or helping someone get those services
- Court appearance, complying with a court order or parole check-in
- Shared custody agreement

- Child care services
- Attending school at a post-secondary institution
- Responding to a critical incident, like search and rescue operations
- Providing care to a person because of a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or a physical, cognitive or mental impairment
- Providing care or assistance to a person who is seriously ill, disabled or has a physical or cognitive impairment
- Visiting a resident (as an essential visitor) at:
 - A community care facility licensed under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act that provides long term care within the meaning of section 2 of the Residential Care Regulation
 - A private hospital licensed under the Hospital Act
 - A non-profit institution that has been designated as a hospital under the Hospital Act and is operated primarily for the reception and treatment of persons requiring extended care at a higher level than that generally provided in a private hospital licensed under the Hospital Act
- Attending a funeral

If the restrictions need to be enforced, police can issue a fine of \$575 fine. Police will not be engaging in random checks. Periodic road checks may be set up at key travel corridors during times associated with leisure travel to remind travelers of the order. People from outside the province who are travelling to B.C. for non-essential reasons can be subject to the same enforcement measures.

Additional measures to reduce non-essential travel within the province will also be implemented, including increased signage on highways and at border crossings reminding travelers of current restrictions, and hotels and resorts eliminating or cancelling bookings from out-of-area guests.

BC Ferries will also be implementing additional measures to support the order:

- Ask travelers if their passage is essential. Recreational travelers will be asked not to board vessels
 - If recreational travelers insist on boarding, they will be allowed to board and police will be notified
- Suspend adding extra sailings during weekends, holidays and peak travel periods

- Notify all travelers with reservations that the travel order is in place and allow cancellations free of charge

BC Ferries will continue to provide regular service to ensure commercial vehicle traffic and essential travel can be maintained.

This order does not restrict travel **within** your Health Authority (in our case Vancouver Island) however, it is **strongly discouraged from leaving your local area for non-essential reasons**. We have been blessed and honoured to be able to call this beautiful land in Snuneymuxw Territory home. There are many activities, especially outdoors, that we can do in our local area to take care of ourselves mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Thank you for all of your hard work