



Communicable Disease Prevention Plan District of Invermere

2021-12-01

This communicable disease plan has been developed because the District of Invermere recognizes the responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our own workers and others who are present at our worksite(s). This responsibility is stated in the Workers Compensation Act (WCA) Section 21. The WCA also enables the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) which outlines further legal requirements.

Communicable diseases are illnesses caused by an infectious agent or its toxins that occur through direct or indirect transmission from an infected individual. We are most concerned about those that circulate in the community from time to time because of our interaction with each other, and the public. Some examples of communicable diseases are COVID-19, norovirus, and influenza.

The District of Invermere is taking the following general measures to reduce risks to workers related to communicable diseases:

- We will continue to inform workers and others who attend our site about known communicable diseases and our efforts to prevent their presence and transmission.
- We will provide support to workers who have symptoms consistent with a communicable disease, through programs such as: work from home opportunities and access to sick leave (paid or unpaid).
- We ensure, to the best of our ability, that workers with symptoms consistent with a communicable disease are not present at the worksite. Every worker is required to complete a daily health self-assessment before starting work.
- WorkSafeBC signage is posted around all DOI buildings, outlining the cough/sneeze etiquette – cover your mouth and nose.
- We provide hand-hygiene facilities that are kept clean, are readily available, and are maintained. Furthermore, we promote appropriate personal hygiene practices. All staff must sanitize and/or wash their hands immediately upon entering a DOI building. WorkSafe BC handwashing signage has been posted, to encourage proper practices. Hand sanitizer has been placed at all doors, and every staff member has an individual sanitizer at their desks, or in their vehicles, that they are to use before entering a shared space.
- We maintain a clean environment through regular general and spot cleanings that are undertaken specifically to prevent communicable disease spread. Professional companies have been contracted to clean all DOI buildings. The Office is cleaned twice a week, the Public Works shop is cleaned once a week, and the Columbia Valley Centre is cleaned at least once a week, and as needed.
- A fresh supply of sanitization solution that can be used on shared surfaces (like photo copiers mail machine, debit terminal, vehicle interiors, etc.) is regularly distributed from the Public Works Dept.
- We ensure our ventilation system is in good working condition by following the preventative maintenance schedule recommended by the manufacturer, as applicable.
- While being sensitive to privacy concerns, individual choice, and/or ability to receive a vaccination for various vaccine-preventable illnesses, the District of Invermere will support those who wish to receive them and those who do not.
- We commit to monitoring information from the Public Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control and/or our health region for new or emergent communicable diseases of concern. Specifically, we will rely on their guidance, notices or orders and what steps are to be taken and, as much as possible, be ready to implement or maintain measures as advised or directed by public health or WorkSafeBC