

VPL Restart Plan:

This Restart Plan is based on the [BC Provincial Restart Plan](#)

Section 1: Outline of Steps

See following sections for details. Details for Library Services and Programming are laid out for Steps 1 and 2 only at this time, as additional consultation will be happening with the Public Health Officer and various sectors to determine details for the future steps. We have outlined our expected changes to the library approach to enforcement of public health orders as per the current Restart Plan.

Please note that everything beyond Step 1 is contingent on cases and hospitalizations continuing to decline, and vaccination rates continuing to increase to at least 70% of adults by Step 3. We will update this plan if there are changes to the timelines or guidance issued by Public Health.

Step 1: May 25

(Implement as soon as possible)

PHO Guidance: Masks Mandatory Indoors, Physical Distancing Required, If Sick Stay Home Get Tested

VPL Step 1 Additional Services and Procedural Changes:

- Library Services
 - Public Seating reopens (See Section 2)
 - Increase library occupancy limits from 50% to 80% of PHO COVID-19 recommended levels.
 - Internet stations
 - Must still be 6 ft apart
 - Extensions of time and repeat daily use allowed if vacant computers available
 - Continue to offer computer and device help while social distancing
 - Exam invigilation can restart.
- Adult Programs (See Section 3)
 - Seated Indoor or Outdoor programs for **Adults** up to 10 people (with DPS permission)
- PHO Rule Enforcement: no change at this step.

Step 2: June 15 (Earliest date – to be confirmed by Public Health Officer)

PHO Guidance: Mask Mandatory Indoors, Physical Distancing Required, If Sick Stay Home Get Tested

VPL Step 2 Changes:

- Adult and Children's Programs
 - Indoor Seated up to 20 people
 - Outdoor seated programming up to 50 people
- PHO Rule Enforcement: no change at this step

Step 3: July 1 (Earliest date – to be confirmed by Public Health Officer)

PHO Guidance: Masks Recommended Indoors, Careful Social Contact, If Sick Stay Home Get Tested

VPL Step 3 Changes:

- Library Services
 - Meeting room bookings can re-start.
 - Group seating will be allowed.
 - Raise occupancy limits to 100% of PHO COVID-19 recommended levels
- Outreach Programs
 - Outreach attendance at Summer Events may be permitted with permission of librarian.
- PHO Rule Enforcement
 - Stop enforcing masks for library visitors and change signage to Masks Recommended
 - Staff mask use requirements relaxed.
 - Physical distancing between staff, and between staff and customers still recommended

* Details will be based on updated Public Health Advice, following PHO consultations with sectors

Step 4: September 7 (Earliest date – to be confirmed by Public Health Officer)

PHO Guidance: Masks Personal Choice, Normal Social Contact, If Sick Stay Home Get Tested

VPL Step 4 Changes:

- Library Services
 - Increase seating to pre-pandemic levels
 - Increase internet stations back to pre-pandemic levels
 - Remove occupancy limits
- Programming and Outreach
 - Resumption of storytimes, school aged programs and adult programs
 - Return to School / Daycare visits and other Outreach Events
 - Classes visits to library can resume
 - Adult group tours of library can resume
- PHO Rule Enforcement
 - Masks personal choice for customers
 - Mask mandate removed for staff
 - Physical Distancing no longer required between staff and customers/ other staff

Section 2: Re-Opening Public Seating

Public Seating Guidelines for Step 1 through Step 2:

- Seats must be a minimum of 6ft from each other in all directions, and from any traffic points like self-checks, service desks, and browsing areas.
- Tables will be provided.
 - Most tables should have one seat, 6 ft long tables can have 1 on each end.
- The number of seats provided should consider your adjusted maximum occupancy limits.
- There will be no time limits on seating, however, you may need to ask people to leave if you approach your maximum capacity.
- You do not need to intervene if people move seats to sit together unless the group is larger than 6 people. Return seats to distanced spacing when group leaves.
- Tables and chairs should be wiped down once daily as part of your daily cleaning.

Preparing for opening seating

- Create a seating plan ensuring:
 - appropriate physical distancing,
 - the appropriate number of seats based on your occupancy limit.

Section 3: Re-starting Programming

We may re-start programs according to our programming guidelines and following the guidance below. Summer Reading Club will remain a primarily outdoor event this summer, though if you wish to offer some in branch programs you may, after June 15 if approved. (step 2). Planning for resumption of

children's and adults programming in the fall should begin. It is recommended that fall programs start late September or October as the September 7 date for Step 4 is the earliest possible date for that stage of the restart and could be delayed.

Programming for Step 1

- You can start Adult Seated programs only - with a maximum of 10 participants
 - Examples: in person bookclubs, knitting groups etc.
- You must follow the Programming Guidelines, including conducting a risk assessment.

Programming for Step 2

- At this step you can deliver indoor or outdoor programs for adults or children.
- Indoor programs must be seated style
- You must follow the Programming Guidelines, including conducting risk assessments.

Section 4: PHO Rule Enforcement

PHO Rule Enforcement for Step 1 and Step 2:

- At these steps there are no changes to the Public Health Orders around Masks and Physical Distancing
 - VPL will continue to require customers to wear masks and continue handing out masks
 - VPL will continue to require staff to wear masks as per current procedures during these steps
 - VPL will continue to require staff to maintain physical distance from each other and from customers during these steps
 - This does not mean you cannot help customers on the floor or on computers / with personal devices. Just maintain social distance as much as possible. Briefly getting closer to 6 ft to offer service is permitted provided you are both masked.

PHO Rule Enforcement for Step 3:

- At Step 3, Masks will no longer be mandatory in indoor spaces, though wearing them is still recommended.
 - VPL will no longer enforce mask wearing or offer masks to customers. If we still have supply, masks can still be offered to customers who ask for them.
 - Mask requirements for programs may be different than for general library use, and will be based on the PHO guidance for events at the time
 - VPL will continue to require staff to wear masks when on the floor of the libraries but will make the following changes at this step:
 - Masks will be optional when serving customers from behind the plexiglass barriers. 6 ft distance must be maintained between workspaces.
 - Masks must continue to be worn in tight shared workspaces where staff cannot safely distance and when helping customers closely.
 - Plexiglass barriers we will remain in place until further notice.
 - Daily cleaning will continue until we receive further PHO guidance.