

BULKLEY VALLEY museum

Bulkley Valley Museum COVID-19 Safety Plan

Note: This is a modified version of the Museum's internal staff plan, containing details relevant to the general public. Full plan available upon request. Contact the curator, Kira Westby at curator@bvmuseum.org

Background

This plan was developed following the outline of the WorkSafe BC COVID-19 Safety Plan planning tool, the BC Museums Association guidelines for reopening, and in consultation with the Board of the Central Park Building Society and the Smithers Art Gallery. The plan takes effect June 1st 2020.

All staff, volunteers, and visitors to the BV Museum must adhere to these policies.

What this policy includes:

- Risk Assessment of high gather areas and high touch surfaces
- Risk elimination measures (e.g. occupancy limits, cleaning, PPE)
- Specific illness and public washroom policies

This policy is intended for use to open the museum for a limited number of hours per day, for limited days of the week.

This policy does not cover: educational program delivery in the museum, public events (indoor or outdoor), hosting meetings in the museum, or use of the Old Church by museum staff or by the public for events.

Step 1: Risk Assessment

Areas where people gather:

- Museum office/gift shop area
- Exhibition gallery
- Common areas of building: washrooms, front entrance, staircase

Job tasks/processes where people are close to one another/members of the public

Staff to Public or public to public interactions occur:

- Office – administration work
- Front hallway, upstairs hallways/landing (with other building tenants or guests)
- Bathrooms
- Exhibition gallery (with guests, including service delivery)
- Office phones

Surfaces that people touch often

- Various spaces outside of the museum proper (front door, bathroom doors, bannister especially)

- Inside museum: windows, front door, back door, Room 6 door, back room door, vault door, computers, keys, gift shop items, brochures/pamphlets

Step 2: Protocols

First Level Protection (Elimination)

All staff must maintain a physical distance of 2m/6ft from other staff, volunteers, or visitors. Where this distance cannot be maintained for any reason a non-medical mask must be worn.

Occupancy limits:

A maximum of 5 staff members and/or volunteers may work in the museum at any one time. They must be distributed throughout our work spaces based on the guidelines below.

Maximum number of visitors is guided by the specific space guidelines below. **Generally, we want no more than 5 non-related people in the gallery at any one time.** 6 or 7 may be accommodated if they are all from the same family unit.

Office: maximum of 4 people (staff and visitors) at one time. Only 1 member of public at a time in gift shop, they must stand back on designated floor mark in middle of space. A second mark outside the door indicates where next person must stand to wait to enter. Only one person per/desk.

Exhibit gallery: **maximum of 5 non-related persons at any one time, including staff** (e.g. 4 visitors 1 staff, 2 visitors 3 staff, etc.). Six (6) people all from same household may enter the space together but no staff can enter gallery at that time.

Recommended limits for gallery areas:

- B-36 gallery: 1 person at a time (or 2 people from same household)
- Main gallery space (entrance to window): 2-3 people at a time
- Witsuwit'en gallery: 1 person (2 people from same household)
- Railroad exhibit space: 2 people (3-4 from same household)

Other specific occupancy limits for staff-only areas included in the staff version of this plan. Information available upon request.

Second Level (Engineering controls)

- **Signage** – front door, in exhibit space, in office, gift shop, staff areas (hand washing, etc.)
- **Floor symbols** (e.g. stand here X in gift shop) and directionality (e.g. enter and exit for B-36 room) to guide staff and visitors
- **Barriers** –gift shop table in front of Assistant Curator's desk to create 6-foot distance
- Seating (rocking chair), kids' activities, touch screens and guest book removed
- **Brochures and guides** – signage indicating people must take only what they want, and a discard bin for any picked up but not taken. Items are isolated before reuse.
- **Museum door** – must be closed by staff once we have hit our maximum number of people allowed in the space

Central Park Building policies

- The front door of the building is to be locked whenever the Art Gallery and/or Museum are not open to the public
- The main floor accessible washroom is for staff and tenants of the building only. **No public washrooms are available.**

Third Level (Administrative)

Specific staff administrative measures are part of the museum staff version of this plan. Information available upon request.

Cleaning Protocols: Central Park Building

- if staff provide access to the staff washroom to a non-tenant or to a non-staff member of the museum, they must IMMEDIATELY clean and sanitize the toilet seat and flush handle, the taps, soap dispenser, change table, and door handles (inside and out).
 - o Washrooms remains out of order until this is done.

Cleaning Protocols: Museum

Staff must wash hands:

- after arriving at work
- after using washrooms
- after using front door of the building or accessing other common areas of the building before returning to work station
- before and after using shared equipment (e.g. camera, printer, shelving)
- when entering the museum from another work area (e.g. Room 6 or Art gallery)
- before and after eating any food

In the museum each day:

- High touch surfaces will be disinfected with Sure 5 and/or a bleach-water solution **twice per day**. See attached checklist below that outlines surfaces that must be cleaned
- Windows will be opened for at least half an hour each morning after opening and half an hour each day before closing to air out the space (weather permitting)
 - o Includes: 1 office window, window in main gallery area, and 1 window in rail exhibit; 1 window in Room 6

In the museum each week:

- Floor must be vacuumed once per week
- Floor must be washed once per week
- Non historic surfaces (e.g. display cases) cleaned with Sure 5 or the bleach-water solution once every 2 days.
 - o If staff observe a guest touching a display case, leaning on it, etc., it will need to be wiped down immediately after the visitor has left before new visitors enter, outside of the daily schedule

- When cleaning display cases, spray the solution onto a paper towel and then wipe. **Do not spray near artifacts**

How to sanitize

In the Museum we will use Sure 5 cleaning product (DIN 02471957, approved by Health Canada as a disinfectant for COVID as of May 26 2020) or a bleach water solution to disinfect commonly touched non-heritage surfaces such as light switches, door handles, etc.

if someone is observed touching an artifact the item must then be isolated/removed from the display. Report the incident to the curator immediately, do not touch the item without gloves

Fourth Level (Masks/other PPE):

- Hand sanitizer at front of museum – all visitors must use sanitizer when entering the space
- Hand sanitizer in Room 6 for staff if needed, but handwashing preferred/encouraged
- Non-medical masks: provided to staff
 - **Currently Health Canada recommendations** (May 21 2020) state that “wearing a homemade **non-medical mask/facial covering is recommended** for periods of time when it is not possible to consistently maintain a 2-metre physical distance from others, particularly in crowded public settings”
- Gloves must be worn when handling artifacts or archival items that may immediately be handled by another person (within 5 days), or when more than one person handling object at same time
- Gloves will be worn if receiving cash (e.g. completing revenue summary, emptying donation bin). Gloves must be immediately discarded.

Step 3: Policies

Illness policy

→ If at any time a staff member or guest of the museum has difficulty breathing or chest pain, call 911 immediately

Signage provided by WorkSafe BC outlining will be posted at the front of the museum stating:

- Anyone (staff or guest) who has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days or develops new symptoms must self-isolate and not come into the museum for any reason
- Anyone who has arrived from outside of Canada or who has had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case must self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms, and are not to come to the museum for any reason

For workers who start to feel ill at work or before arriving at work:

- Report symptoms to the manager (Curator) immediately
- The worker will be asked to go straight home if they are already at work. They will be asked not to enter any additional workspaces, use the washrooms, or access building common areas

- All workers are expected to remain at home in isolation for 14 days (or as recommended by Public Health authorities) after developing any symptoms related to COVID-19.
- All surfaces and items that a sick worker has been in contact with must immediately be disinfected with Sure 5 or the bleach water solution and/or isolated from other staff use for 5 days.
- *Specific HR policies for COVID related to leave, sick days, etc. included in the staff version of the COVID plan.*

Occupancy and cleaning policies

See occupancy policies outlined above

See Daily Cleaning checklist and Protocol for Greeting Visitors below for specific procedures

Researcher access policies

- Researchers will be asked to complete any on-site research between 9am-12pm before the museum opens
- They will use a folding table in the exhibit gallery and must wear nitrile gloves when handling items
- The table and hard surfaces of the chair will be wiped with Sure 5 or bleach water after use by the researcher
- Researchers must abide by all other public access policies
- Where possible research materials will be scanned by staff and sent via email to the researcher

Step 4: Communication and Training

- All staff and volunteers must be trained on the new policies before beginning work and before museum opens to the public
- Signage (see above) will be posted by the Curator. Curator is responsible for changing/adding/replacing/updating signage as required
- Policies and protocols that affect visitors will be posted in clear signage. All visitors will be greeted by staff who will provide an outline of the procedures.
 - o Any visitors found to be in violation of the museum's policies or acting inappropriately (e.g. not maintaining physical distance) will be asked to leave the premises

Step 5: Monitor

- This policy will be reviewed every 2 weeks by the Curator and updated as required