

---

# BACKGROUND 1

For Immediate Release  
May 6, 2020

Ministry of Environment  
and Climate Change Strategy

## **Provincial parks and recreation sites reopening plan**

The Province is implementing a detailed plan to reopen parks and recreation sites to provide opportunities for people to connect with each other and enjoy outdoor recreation, while continuing to respect the guidance of the provincial health officer (PHO) and the Ministry of Health. The plan will be monitored throughout its implementation and adjustments will be made to support public health and safety and continued progress on COVID-19 response.

### **May 14: Reopening of most day-use facilities**

The Province will reopen most provincial parks and recreation sites and trails for day use on May 14, 2020. The opening will include access to beaches, trails, picnic areas, washroom facilities and boat launches. In some instances, facilities such as playgrounds, halls and picnic shelters will remain closed.

In keeping with public health guidelines around non-essential travel, people are urged to only visit parks close to their home and avoid travelling to small communities. Some parks will remain closed due to potential challenges with high numbers of anticipated visitors. These parks will be monitored and adjustments made as soon as possible. For the most up-to-date information, visit: <http://BCParks.ca>

### **June 1: Reopening additional day-use facilities, plus campgrounds and recreation sites**

Starting June 1, 2020, most campgrounds and recreation sites throughout the province will reopen, as will most of the remaining day-use sites. To support continued progress in responding to COVID-19, it may be necessary to introduce changes to the way some services are provided and limits may be placed on the number of guests permitted in campgrounds.

Hot springs and backcountry communal cabins will remain closed. Details on which campgrounds and services will be available will be posted on the BC Parks website, as well as the Discover Camping site as they become available: <https://discovercamping.ca/bccweb/>

The Discover Camping reservation system will be back online on May 25, 2020, to accept campsite reservations. Some campsite availability may be reduced in a few instances; any existing reservations that are affected will be automatically cancelled and refunded. The bulk of existing reservations will be honoured. Those with existing reservations after June 1 who would like to cancel them will have until June 15 to cancel without facing cancellation fees. Reservations cancelled after June 15, as well as new reservations made after May 25, will face the usual cancellation and transaction fees.

The public is advised to check the BC Parks website often as services and openings may change to align with the status of the COVID-19 response.

There are a number of provincial parks that attract larger crowds and can be challenging to manage as a result. COVID-19 only increases this challenge, so these parks will only reopen once it can be done safely, consistent with PHO guidance, and taking into consideration the safety of staff and protection of the environment. At the outset of the pandemic, certain local governments and First Nations communities raised concerns about the impact of large crowds gathering in or near their communities. BC Parks will look to continue to respect those communities' interests as parks are reopened.

**Learn More:**

Any changes to provincial park access or services will be posted to the BC Parks website:  
<http://bcparks.ca>

For information on provincial campsites, visit: <https://discovercamping.ca/bccweb/as>

For status updates on Recreation Sites and Trails BC campgrounds, visit:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/camping-hiking/sites-trails>

---

## BACKGROUND 2

For Immediate Release  
May 6, 2020

Ministry of Education

### **Measured approach to phasing in a return to learning in classrooms**

The Ministry of Education is working with all 60 school districts, independent school authorities, First Nations schools, teachers, school leaders, support staff, public health officials and all its education partners to begin a co-ordinated and measured phased-in approach to resuming in-class learning, guided by strict health and safety guidelines.

This measured approach will involve five stages leading to an eventual safe and full return of students learning in classrooms and provides flexibility to continue home learning even while in-class instruction is available.

While face-to-face instruction is suspended for the majority of students, schools in the province remain open for some, including children of essential service workers and those who are vulnerable and need more supports.

All 60 school districts and independent schools are currently in Stage 4 (chart below), where children of essential service workers and vulnerable students are currently being supported in the classroom, while online and remote learning opportunities are being delivered to most students at home.

There are currently 4,700 children of essential service workers and about 300 vulnerable students and students with disabilities/diverse abilities being supported in public and independent school classrooms throughout B.C.

Districts are making sure families learning remotely who do not have access to technology are getting the help they need by loaning out equipment – to date, more than 27,000 computers and devices are being loaned. School communities throughout the province also worked quickly to provide almost 75,000 meals and food supports on a weekly basis to over 16,000 families.

Schools are operating under the guidelines established by the provincial health officer and BC Centre for Disease Control to ensure the safety of students and education professionals. These guidelines include controlling access to buildings, maintaining physical distancing amongst staff and implementing distancing strategies for students who are in schools, and maintaining good hygiene practices.

The ministry will continue to work closely with all education partners. More information on the phased-in approach to resuming in-class instruction will be available in the weeks to come.

<b>Education stages for K-12 students</b>
<p><b>Stage 5</b></p> <p>Suspend all in-class instruction for all grades and students.</p> <p>Remote and online learning for all students.</p>
<p><b>Stage 4 *Current stage</b></p> <p>In-class learning for children of essential service workers and vulnerable students.</p> <p>Remote and online learning continues for most students.</p>
<p><b>Stage 3</b></p> <p>In-class learning for students in kindergarten to Grade 5 on a part-time basis.</p> <p>Access to in-class learning as needed for grades 6 to 12 on a part-time basis.</p> <p>Remote and online learning continues to be available for students.</p>
<p><b>Stage 2</b></p> <p>In-class learning for all students in elementary school (K to 7) on a full-time basis.</p> <p>In-class learning for secondary students (grades 8 to 12) on a part-time basis.</p> <p>Remote and online learning continues to be available for secondary students.</p>
<p><b>Stage 1</b></p> <p>A return to full in-class instruction.</p>

**Media Contacts:**

Government Communications and Public Engagement  
 Ministry of Education  
 250 356-5963

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)