



List of COVID-19 Essential Services

Essential services are those daily services essential to preserving life, health, public safety and basic societal functioning. They are the services British Columbians come to rely on in their daily lives.

Last Updated: **April 24, 2020**

This list was developed by Emergency Management BC in consultation with other government ministries and the Provincial Health Officer (PHO). In consultation with the PHO, essential services should and are encouraged to remain open. This list may be updated as government's response to COVID-19 evolves.

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Child care providers and schools providing care and/or in-class instruction for children are to prioritize placements for those children whose parents are employed in health and health services, social services, law enforcement, first responders, and emergency response.

PHO Guidance

The PHO has ordered some types of businesses to close. Any business or service that has not been ordered to close and is also not identified on the essential service list may stay open if they can adapt their services and workplace to the orders and recommendations of the PHO.

All organizations and services must follow all PHO Orders, Notices and Guidance to ensure safe operations and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19

[PHO Orders, Notices & Guidance](#)

Contact

Talk to a Service BC agent about [non-health related information and services](#) such as

- [Child Care](#)
- [Travel restrictions](#)
- [Business and funding support](#)

[Text 1-604-630-0300](#)

[Call 1-888-COVID19](#)

Service is available 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Canada: [1-888-268-4319](#)

International: [1-604-412-0957](#)

Standard message and data rates may apply.

Telephone for the Deaf

[Across B.C. Dial 711](#)

Health and Health Services

- All health care providers, health service providers, support staff and ancillary services within a healthcare, mental health, or addictions treatment setting
- Individuals, agencies and organizations that support the delivery of healthcare, mental health, or addictions services
- Blood and plasma donation services including:
 - Collection
 - Production
 - Distribution
 - Diagnostics and laboratory testing
 - Related goods and services

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, First Responders & Emergency Response Personnel

All first responders should follow the [guidance provided by the PHO](#)

- First responders, including:
 - Police
 - Fire
 - Paramedics
- Services providing for public safety, including:
 - First aid
 - Corrections and detainment facilities
 - Park rangers
 - Conservation officers
 - Security and protective services
 - Court services
 - Bylaw enforcement
 - Communications and dispatching support for first responders
- Volunteers, such as:
 - Search-and-rescue
 - Those engaged in other public safety duties
- Public sector workers for peace, order, and good government
- Employees of contracted service providers in these fields, including:
 - Maintenance of technical infrastructure to support this work and compliance with health and public safety orders
- Businesses that provide support to police, correctional services, and first responders
- The Department of National Defence (DND) and its employers
- The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and its personnel
- Persons or entities contracted by DND or CAF in support of the defence mandate
- Operations and services that support the Canadian Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Emergency management personnel at local, regional, provincial levels, and federal levels, including contracted emergency management personnel

Vulnerable Population Service Providers

- Applicable facilities **must follow the PHO order regarding the Movement Limitation of Long Term Care Facility Staff**
- Applicable facilities should follow the [guidance provided by the PHO](#)
- All social sector providers should follow the [guidance provided by the PHO](#)

- Businesses, government and non-profits that provide care, food, shelter, social, and support services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise vulnerable individuals including seniors, children, or individuals with disabilities, such as:
 - Service delivery staff who provide access to income and disability assistance and supports
 - Foodbanks
 - Community kitchens
 - Voluntary and community service providers
 - Substance use and addiction services, including:
 - Overdose prevention sites
 - Licensed and registered treatment and recovery facilities
 - Transitional, social and supportive housing
 - Residential and care facilities
 - Single room occupancy housing
- Community services and outreach for immigrant, refugee, vulnerable populations and non-market housing
- School and other entities that provide free food services to students or members of the public
- Child care services for essential workers
- Home child care services of less than six children
- Caregivers for children in care and out of care
- Businesses that sell, rent or repair assistive/mobility/medical devices, aids and/or supplies, or other products/services that support the health sector, including mental health and addictions/counselling supports
- Public washrooms and hygiene facilities (toilets, handwash, showers) for unsheltered persons
- Parks and greenspace for public health and sheltering for unsheltered persons

Critical Infrastructure

All industrial camps should follow the [guidance provided by the PHO](#)

- Critical infrastructure service providers, including:
 - Drilling and production
 - Refineries
 - Laboratories
 - Processing
 - Treatment and completion facilities
 - Utilities
 - Transportation
 - Distribution
 - Digital systems infrastructure
 - Transmission stations
 - Storage facilities
 - All of the required support, operations and staff critical in supporting:
 - Electricity
 - Drinking water
 - Waste water
 - Drainage
 - Steam
 - Alternative energy production
 - Chemical and industrial gas
 - Waste and hazardous waste/material management
 - Industrial recycling
 - Oil and natural and propane gas
 - Fuel, petroleum, crude oil and other fuel sources such as heating oil and wood pellets
- Gas stations, diesel, propane and heating fuel providers including providers of motor vehicle, aircraft and water/marine fuels, and providers of charging stations for electric vehicles
- Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of aggregates to support critical infrastructure repairs and emergency response requirements (e.g. sandbags, armour stone barriers, etc.)

Food and Agriculture Service Providers

- Restaurant and food facilities **must follow the PHO Order to Owners and Operators of Nightclubs and Food and Drink Service**
- All retail food and grocery stores should follow the [guidance provided by the PHO](#)

- Food cultivation, including:
 - Farming
 - Livestock
 - Hunting
 - Aquaculture and fishing
 - Community gardens and subsistence agriculture
- Businesses that support the food supply chain, including:
 - Seed
 - Fertilizer
 - Pesticides
 - Farm machinery sales and maintenance
- Food processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation and distribution of foods, feed products and beverages
- Workers essential to maintain or repair equipment in food processing and distribution centres
- Workers, including Temporary Foreign Workers, to support agricultural operations to enhance food security
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food
- Inspection services and associated regulatory and government workforce and supporting businesses required for:
 - Slaughter, rendering, and processing of animals
 - Dairy production
 - Food safety
- Businesses that provide for the health and welfare of animals, including:
 - Veterinarians
 - Farms
 - Boarding kennels
 - Stables
 - Animal shelters
 - Zoos
 - Aquariums
 - Research facilities
 - Other service providers

Retail

- Grocery stores
- Convenience stores
- Farmers' markets
- Other establishments engaged in the retail sale or provision of food
- Pet or livestock supply
- Liquor
- Cannabis (including producers)
- Other household consumer products, such as cleaning and personal care products
- Stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential daily operation of residences, such as:
 - Home supply
 - Hardware
 - Building material stores
 - Pawn brokers
 - Garden centres and nurseries
- Stores that sell supplies that ensure the safety of essential workers, such as:
 - Appropriate footwear
 - High-visibility clothing
 - Hardhats

Transportation

- Supply chain services needed to supply goods for societal functioning, including:
 - Cooling
 - Storing
 - Packaging
 - Transportation
 - Warehousing
 - Distribution

- Workers who support the maintenance and operation of cargo through air, marine, rail and trucking transportation services, including:
 - Crews, maintenance, repair, and other facilities workers
 - Services to support transportation, including highway, road, bridge maintenance and repair

- Employees who build, repair, maintain and overhaul vehicles, aircraft and parts, rail equipment, marine vessels, bicycles and the passengers, and as vehicle rentals and leasing, including land, camp, air and marine vessels

- Services engaged in national defense

- Port/airport personnel and services, including:
 - Road
 - Rail operations
 - Commercial vehicle safety enforcement
 - Commercial vehicle inspection stations
 - Brokerage
 - Vehicle registration
 - Commercial rest stops
 - Truck and rest stops

- Private and public transportation services, such as:
 - Buses
 - Taxis
 - Car-share programs
 - Airfare
 - Aircraft

- Other household consumer products, such as cleaning and personal care products

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- Home supply

- Hardware

- Building material stores

- Pawn brokers

- Garden centres and nurseries

- Stores that sell supplies that ensure the safety of essential workers, such as:

- Appropriate footwear

- High-visibility clothing

- Hardhats

Industry & Manufacturing

- All manufacturers should follow the [guidance provided by the PHO](#)

- All mining and processing facilities must follow the [PHO Order regarding the Movement Limitation of Long Term Care Facility Staff](#)

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