



March 19, 2021

**LETTER FROM THE BCLA PRESIDENT**

**RE: COVID-19 PROVINCE-WIDE RESTRICTIONS - LACROSSE ACTIVITY UPDATE**

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Dear BCLA Members:

Plans for the 2021 Box Lacrosse season continue to take shape. Thank you volunteers for planning lacrosse activities for our athletes through this challenging time. We must take the positives of playing our sport and grasp the opportunities with friends and teammates to work on our lacrosse skills. Our members are working hard to encourage lacrosse participation within present PHO restrictions.

This message is a follow up to BCLA's February 11, 2021 President's Message. As the COVID-19 situation continues, sport will adapt to the restrictions set forth by the Ministry of Health with direction from viaSport BC.

A reminder, as the weather improves with more lacrosse activities, we must not let our guard down and must continue to follow your association/club and local city/municipality safety guidelines to ensure our participants experience the safest lacrosse activities.

The Ministry of Health and PHO addressed the status of the current PHO restrictions and have announced these restrictions have been extended without a specific deadline date.

Read the [Provincial Health Officer Order on Gatherings and Events](#) (at Mar. 12, 2021).

Read the full details around what these [updates to the Order mean for sport](#) (viaSport page).

Please see [Province-wide Restrictions](#) for sport (latest updated information).

On March 15, 2021, there was a change to the PHO Order on Gatherings and Events that affects adult outdoor sport -- sport-specific updates were added to this order. The intent of this order is to significantly reduce social interactions and travel. Effective immediately, group sport activities like training and drills are permitted for adults 22 and older, provided they meet the following conditions:

**Adult group sport-**

- **All indoor and outdoor adult group sport activities for people 22 years of age and older** are limited to the following:
  - If the group sport is indoors – **only 2 persons participate** (no change);
  - If the group sport is outdoors – **only 10 persons participate (increase from 4 people)**;
  - The participants maintain a distance of three metres from one another while engaged in the group sport, unless the participants reside in the same private residence (no change);
  - There are no spectators, unless the presence of a spectator is necessary in order to provide care to a participant (no change).
- The government website lists a number of sports as examples, but it is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list. All sport must follow these restrictions.
- All other restrictions on indoor activities remain in place.

### **Children and youth sport-**

These are activities delivered by a provincial sport organization or a local sport organization and may include participants who are under 22 years of age. **Indoor and outdoor sport for people under 22 years of age** can continue but:

- Participants maintain a physical distance of **three metres** from one another while on the field of play and do not engage in handshaking, high fives, hugging, etc.
- Participants can only travel to their home club/association.
- Games, tournaments and competitions are temporarily suspended for teams.
- There are no spectators, unless the presence of a spectator is necessary in order to provide care to a participant.
- The focus is on activities that have a low risk of COVID-19 virus transmission (i.e., can maintain three meters physical distance).
- Lacrosse activities (practices) **CAN** occur as per the BCLA Return to Lacrosse Phase 1 Guidelines reverting back to Skills & Drills training **ONLY**.

**Travel to home club/association:** Individuals are permitted to travel to their home club/association for the purpose of sport, while following all restrictions in the current public health order.

- Home club is defined as the sport organization, club, or facility at which a person is registered for ongoing sport programming.
- Individuals should not carpool with other participants who are not in their household.

Please read [viaSport's Travel Reminders for Spring Sports](#).

Please read [viaSport's updated Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ).

Please read BCLA's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ).

Thank you to all that attended the Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> BCLA town hall meeting. It is clear that many associations/clubs are building capacities to offer lacrosse activities. We ask volunteers to continue to step up and assist your local association activities.

What we have learned is that sport for children and youth will take precedence to adult group sports. Sport activities will be more community-based with groups in one's home association. We don't know when we'll be playing games yet, but this is a great time to hone our skills with practice!

This is how sport, and the BCLA must proceed under the latest province-wide restrictions in the foreseeable future until sport is directed otherwise.

Sport expects to learn more about sport activities within restrictions from additional viaSport BC guidelines. The BCLA will continue to update our members as we learn more from the BC Government, PHO and viaSport BC on information as it relates to COVID-19.

Thank you for your hard work and patience through this challenging situation. If you have any additional questions, please e-mail me at [gerry@bclacrosse.com](mailto:gerry@bclacrosse.com)

Yours in Lacrosse,  
Gerry Van Beek  
BCLA President