

BC Games Society
Greater Vernon 2022 BC Winter Games COVID-19 FAQs



The BC Games Society has developed three strategies related to the health and wellbeing of everyone at the Games: reducing major contact points, giving participants and volunteers more space, and creating layers of defence. The specific tactics to achieve this include restricting numbers at venues, reducing numbers of individuals accessing venues, and requirement to wear masks, etc.

viaSport Return to Sport Guidelines and the Ministry of Education Back to School Plan were used to guide the BC Games Society’s return to Games planning because these plans best capture the essence of a multi-sport games environment. There is sport competition which is supported by the viaSport guidelines and then there are many interactions beyond that such as transportation, food services, accommodation. It was possible to gain insight on how to manage these other variables, unique to a multi-sport games environment, through the implementation strategies within the Ministry of Education Back to School Plan.

It is each person’s responsibility (and an expectation of the BC Games Society) that all participants and volunteers be aware of how they impact others by who they are in contact with before, during, and after the Games. They will be asked to be aware of how they are expanding their contacts in the days leading up to the Games and after the Games, to keep contact with those outside of the Games as minimal as possible.

Games Cohort: One or more sports that stay together at the Games accommodation site. The maximum size per cohort is 200 participants and up to two sports. The number is based on the maximum permitted at one accommodation site.

Travel Cohort: The group within which participants travel to, and from, the host community on BC Games transportation. Bus: 50 max. Plane: 140 max

Games Capacity: The participant contingent from an individual sport at the Games. All sports at the BC Winter Games have a maximum capacity of 120 participants (athletes & coaches).

Question	Answer	Sport Partner and/or Volunteer	Date Edited
Overview			
If the Games are cancelled, will my child be able to compete at the next BC Winter Games?	It is undecided at this time what the age eligibility for each sport would be for the next BC Winter Games. Each Provincial Sport Organization sets the age eligibility and criteria for qualification into the Games based on their long-term development pathway.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
How will parents stay informed about COVID-19 adjustments are being implemented for the Games?	The BC Games Society will host virtual G2G (Guide to the Games) sessions prior to the Games to provide parents and participants with information about what to expect at the Games and COVID-19 adjustments. Important information about the Games and how to best prepare will be available in an online Guide to the Games publication and from regular participant emails in the lead up to the Games. Refer to the COVID-19 page on the website (https://staging.bcgames.org/sport/sports-in-the-games/bc-winter-games/sport-package-rules-information/) for updates.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021

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As restrictions ease, will plans change?	The BC Games Society is working closely with the Ministry of Health, Interior Health, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, as well as our Provincial Sport Organizations (PSO) partners to monitor changes within the sport sector specifically and the province in general. As updates are available the BC Games Society will work with the host society and the PSO to determine if planning can or should be adjusted.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
Who was consulted to plan for the modifications necessary to host a Games?	As the BC Games is broader in scope from simply the 'field of play', it was necessary to look at entities beyond the sport sector to give insight on how to proceed. Leaders in a variety of sectors were consulted such as Transport Canada; Conference Board of Canada; Food & Beverage/Tourism sector; Boarding Schools; Emergency Shelter Guidelines; Elections Canada; etc. Through information gathered from a variety of industry contacts, it was possible to identify modifications required within the Games.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
If the Games are going to be postponed or cancelled, who makes this decision and what is the timeline to decide?	The major funding partner for the Games is the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, therefore, the final decision of postponement or cancellation will be made by the Minister's office. As planning proceeds and the state of the province becomes clearer, the BC Games Society will make recommendations to the Minister's office as to next steps. The BC Games Society is aware of the implications of timing for a decision such as this, therefore we will continue to monitor the situation and keep our government partners informed.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
COVID-19 Adjusted Health and Safety Protocols			
What health screening for COVID-19 will be in place?	<p>All participants and volunteers will be required to complete an online COVID-19 health screening declaration in the days leading up to the Games. In addition , all participants and volunteers are expected to do a self-assessment each day of the Games (participants before leaving their accommodation site, and volunteers before arriving for their first shift of the day). If at any time they are not feeling well, participants will report to their coach who will then notify Medical Services and volunteers will report to their supervisor and not attend their shift.</p> <p>All Games venues will have prominent COVID-19 self-assessment signage at entry points.</p>	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021

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How can you ensure that participants and volunteers will be safe?	The health and wellbeing of everyone at a BC Winter Games is of critical importance. For this reason, the BC Games Society will implement consistent health measures for all individuals involved in the Games, whether they are participants, volunteers, or guests. These measures include health screening, reducing major contact points, giving participants and volunteers more space, and creating layers of defence.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
How are participants going to stay safe while competing at the Games?	Each Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) is responsible for managing the field of play at their venue(s). The actual management of the Sport competition falls to the PSO and their individual Return to Sport plans .	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
Who will monitor the COVID-19 health screening for completion?	<p>Participants and volunteers will be required to complete an online COVID-19 health screening declaration prior to their first check-in (participants before they board bus/flight; volunteers before their first shift). If they have not done so, they will be asked to confirm verbally on site.</p> <p>It is then each individual's responsibility to do a self-assessment on each day at the Games (participants before leaving their accommodation site, and volunteers before arriving for their first shift of the day). If at any time they are not feeling well, participants will report to their coach who will then notify Medical Services and volunteers will report to their supervisor and not attend their shift.</p> <p>Coaches will assist with this process by confirming with their athletes each morning that the self-assessment was done and that they are not feeling sick. Volunteer supervisors will do the same with volunteers as they arrive for their shift each day.</p> <p>If at any time they are not feeling well, participants will report to their coach who will then notify Medical Services and volunteers will report to their supervisor and not attend their shift.</p>	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
Who will monitor physical distancing at venues/events?	It is each person's responsibility to monitor and adjust the space between themselves and others. This includes considering distance between those with the Games Cohort and others outside of their Cohort.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021

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<p>What measures are participants or volunteers expected to adhere to?</p>	<p>Participants and volunteers will be required to complete an online COVID-19 health screening declaration prior to their first check-in (participants before they board bus/flight; volunteers before their first shift). If they have not done so, they will be asked to confirm verbally on site.</p> <p>It is then each individual's responsibility to do a self-assessment on each day at the Games (participants before leaving their accommodation site, and volunteers before arriving for their first shift of the day). Coaches will assist with this process by confirming with their athletes each morning that the self-assessment was done and that they are not feeling sick. Volunteer supervisors will do the same with volunteers as they arrive for their shift each day.</p> <p>If at any time they are not feeling well, participants will report to their coach who will then notify Medical Services and volunteers will report to their supervisor and not attend their shift.</p> <p>It is also each person's responsibility (and an expectation of the BC Games Society) that all participants and volunteers are aware of how they impact others by who they are in contact with. They will be asked to be aware of how they are expanding their contacts in the days leading up to the Games, at the Games, and after the Games, to minimize contact with those outside of the Games as much as possible.</p>	<p>Sport Partner and Volunteer</p>	<p>June 17, 2021</p>
<p>Will medical treatment be managed differently under COVID-19?</p>	<p>Medical treatment and assessment will be primarily handled by Venue Medical volunteers at the sport venues, rather than transporting participants to a centralized Medical Clinic. This will include assessments by doctors or other practitioners at venues, when appropriate. Where possible, participants will be referred to the hospital or other treatment facilities from the sport venue.</p>	<p>Sport Partner</p>	<p>June 17, 2021</p>
<p>What happens if one or more people at the Games test positive for COVID-19?</p>	<p>Working in collaboration with the local health authority, an outbreak plan will be put into place in advance of the Games. This will include the steps required to manage an outbreak, sourcing suitable quarantine locations, etc.</p>	<p>Sport Partner and Volunteer</p>	<p>June 17, 2021</p>

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What cleaning protocols will be in place?	<p>Cleaning protocols as defined by the Public Health Officer will be in place at the Games. These will be posted at all venues to ensure compliance. As well, information on cleaning protocols will be shared with all participants prior to their arrival at the Games and with all volunteers in their training sessions.</p> <p>In areas of high traffic such as accommodation sites, buses, sport venues, food venues, etc., specific cleaning protocols will be in place, requiring frequent cleaning throughout the day.</p>	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
What is the BC Games Society's position on vaccinations? Will proof of vaccination be required to participate or volunteer in the BC Winter Games?	Prior to the pandemic, the BC Games Society did not require participants or volunteers to have other vaccinations in order to be part of the Games. This position will continue and will include the COVID-19 vaccine. All other practices as outlined by the Provincial Health Officer (i.e.: physical distancing; masks; handwashing; etc.) will be reinforced with all those involved in the Games.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
Masks			
What is the BC Games Society's mask policy?	<p>All participants and volunteers are required to wear non-medical masks while indoors. This requirement will also extend to outdoor settings where social distancing cannot be maintained. Exceptions to this requirement will be extended in scenarios such as eating meals and sleeping in Games accommodation.</p> <p>On the field of play, the BC Games Society will defer to each individual Provincial Sport Organization and their Return to Sport plan to determine whether athletes, coaches, and officials are required to wear a mask during training and competition.</p>	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
What if I can't wear a mask for health reasons?	Because the Games bring many people together from different areas of the province, the BC Games Society is making masks mandatory for all participants and volunteers. This policy is designed to maintain the safety and comfort of everyone at the Games. Mask exemptions for medical reasons will be honoured as presented.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
Does my child need to bring their own mask?	The BC Games Society will be providing all participants with one mask. It is recommended that participants bring extra masks to ensure they have face covering with them at all times at the Games.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021

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Will masks/PPE will be available/provided to volunteers?	In addition to providing masks to all participants and volunteers, appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided where required. What is provided will vary depending on the location and scenario. For volunteers, PPE and sanitization supplies (washing stations, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, gloves, etc.) will be available where it is necessary for the role/task and/or in situations when many people are in contact with an area/equipment. Volunteers will be informed at their training sessions as to what PPE supplies will be available/provided.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
Travel			
How do participants travel to the Games?	BC Games Society provides transportation services for participants to get to and from the host community. Type of travel to the Games varies depending on the region travelling from. Participants will be strategically assigned to a "Travel Cohort" as a way to manage and track the group of athletes travelling to the Games. Contact your sport's Provincial Advisor or Zone Representative for more region-specific travel information.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
How will our sport be transported at the Games?	Each Games Cohort will be assigned a dedicated bus(es) for the duration of the Games and access to courtesy cars, which will be cleaned between uses.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
How will our athletes' luggage be moved at the Games?	Luggage may only be handled by volunteers wearing personal protective equipment or by participants themselves. Volunteers will only handle luggage when loading or unloading to ensure all participants on the bus do not gather to handle their luggage. At all other times, participants are required to handle their own luggage. Participants are encouraged to only bring what they absolutely need and to ensure they can move the luggage they bring.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
Can I transport my own child to the Games?	BC Games Society requires all athletes and coaches to take Games transportation services. It's about maintaining the integrity of Travel Cohorts, which are designed to ensure the safe and managed movements of all participants. Contact your sport's Provincial Advisor for more information.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021

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Accommodation			
What is the accommodation arrangement at the Games?	Schools are converted into accommodation sites with dorm style classrooms serviced by volunteers. Participants will receive a BC Games issued foam mattress to sleep on. Participants are expected to bring a sleeping bag and pillow from home. Participants are assigned to a dorm classroom by sport and gender with appropriate safe sport supervision from coaches or adult supervisors. Adequate spacing between mattresses will be maintained in dorm rooms, ensuring an appropriate amount of physical distancing. All participants must be scanned in by 11:00 PM or earlier as set by their sport. Sports will be assigned to a “Games Cohort” to help manage the number of contacts with those outside of their cohort. A maximum of two sports will be assigned to an accommodation site.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
How will access to showers be managed to enable participants to maintain distance?	Where possible, showers will be available to participants at either their accommodation site or sport venue. Shower schedules will be developed as part of the Bus & Meal Schedules to ensure reduced capacity in shower spaces where physical distancing cannot be maintained. For Games Cohorts without showers at their accommodation site or sport venue, a neutral shower site will be established.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
If I don't feel comfortable having my child stay with a large group at a Games accommodation site, can I get an exemption so they can stay with me?	The BC Games General Rule is that all athletes and coaches stay in Games Accommodation. It is based on establishing an athlete-coach development experience, creating more team building opportunities, and leveling playing field for all athletes and sports. The BC Games have created Games Cohorts for accommodation sites allowing one or more sports, with a maximum of 200 per site. Further, it's about maintaining the integrity of Travel Cohorts, which are designed to ensure the safety and managed transportation of all participants. Contact your sport's Provincial Advisor for more information.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
What health and wellness measures will be in place?	The BC Games Society has developed three strategies related to the health and wellbeing of everyone at the Games: reducing major contact points, giving participants and volunteers more space, and creating layers of defence. The specific tactics to achieve this include restricting numbers at venues, reducing numbers of individuals accessing venues, requirement to wear masks, etc.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021

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General			
Will there be an Opening or Closing Ceremony?	This BC Winter Games will go forward with no mass-gatherings. This means no traditional Opening Ceremony or Closing Ceremony. Instead, plans anticipate a virtual/livestream Opening and Closing Ceremony within Games Cohorts.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
Will Participant Special Events be held?	Some activities or events will be planned and available for participants on Friday and Saturday evenings. These will be held within Games Cohorts at respective accommodation sites.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
Where will I be able to buy Games souvenirs and merchandise?	All merchandise and souvenir items will be available online. No physical sales kiosks will be set-up at the Games.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
I want to watch my child compete. Can I attend the Games as a spectator?	Currently, the modified Games planning reflects the viaSport Return to Sport requirements, which are in place to allow Provincial Sport Organizations (PSO's) to begin practices and skill sessions. These requirements state no spectators will be permitted. In order for PSOs to agree to participate in the Games, they need to ensure the Games are meeting the viaSport requirements. This info will be given to PSOs to share with athletes and their families. BC Games Society is working closely with the Ministry of Health, Interior Health, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, as well as our Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) partners to monitor changes within the sport sector specifically and the province in general. As updates are available the BC Games Society will work with the host society and the PSO to determine if planning can or should be adjusted.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021
If spectators are not permitted to attend sport events or ceremonies, is there a way we can view from home?	The BC Games is planning to provide webcasting coverage for all sports allowing families to watch their loved ones while remaining safely within their home community. Virtual/live streaming versions of the Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony will be produced and each sport will feature some webcasting coverage. Coverage may not be available for all competition times or all fields/courts; but all sports will receive coverage. In addition, the Greater Vernon 2022 BC Winter Games volunteers are putting plans into place to ensure photographs are taken at all sports/venues/events and are posted often. Social media posts and website stories, etc. will also help capture what is happening at the Games.	Sport Partner and Volunteer	June 17, 2021

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What will medal presentation ceremonies look like?	Medal Presentation Ceremonies will be conducted at sport venues, as in past Games, with limited numbers of volunteers and guests at each ceremony. Physical distancing will be maintained during the presentation of the medals while still allowing for photo opportunities. As in the past, medal presentation photos will be available for download from the BC Games Flickr site.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
How will participants get their Games accreditation badges?	The accreditation process will be done at accommodation sites where coaches or Provincial Sport Organization representatives will ensure all participants are checked in. Any needed changes or missing information will be reported to accreditation volunteers at an alternate location. Participants will receive their badges and accreditation materials at their accommodation site.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
Why not just use the viaSport Return to Sport guidelines to make decisions on the Games?	The viaSport plan is focused on the 'field of play'. The BC Games has a much broader scope which includes field of play as well as transportation, accommodation, food services, etc. therefore it was necessary to look beyond those guidelines in order to make decisions for the Games.	Sport Partner	June 17, 2021
When will I get my volunteer Games accreditation badge?	The details of volunteer accreditation are still being determined. Likely volunteers will be provided with their Games accreditation at their pre-Games training session or on their first shift.	Volunteer	June 17, 2021
How will I be able to access training for my role?	As Public Health Orders limit the size of gatherings, many training sessions will be held virtually. Where virtual training is not possible, in-person training will occur in small groups and at venues where individuals can maintain appropriate distance. Masks will be mandatory for all in-person training sessions.	Volunteer	June 17, 2021
Will there be a volunteer celebration event after the Games?	With no mass-gatherings in place for the Games, any Volunteer Appreciation Event held will not be held in-person, at a single location where gathering sizes exceed Public Health Order at the time. The Greater Vernon 2022 BC Winter Games volunteers are exploring ways to thank and celebrate Games volunteers without the need to gather them at a single in-person function. More details will be provided as plans are developed.	Volunteer	June 17, 2021

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<p>Will I be able to volunteer at multiple venues?</p>	<p>The BC Games Society has outlined three strategies related to the health and wellbeing of everyone at the Games: reducing major contact points, giving participants and volunteers more space, and creating layers of defence. The specific tactics to achieve this include restricting numbers at venues, reducing numbers of venues individuals access, requirement to wear masks, etc.</p> <p>In order to limit contact points, volunteers will be restricted to working at a single venue. Some specialized volunteer roles will need to access many venues; these volunteers will be provided with appropriate PPE and/or will access venues when participants are not present.</p> <p>In general, volunteers will only work at one venue. Volunteers from the same household will be encouraged to work that same venues, where possible.</p>	<p>Volunteer</p>	<p>June 17, 2021</p>