

# COVID-19

## Oral Health Care During the new BC Restart Plan

On May 25, 2021, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) released an updated four-step [BC Restart Plan](#).

The [Oral Health Care During Phases 2 and 3 of the COVID-19 Response](#) document continues to provide current guidance related to the provision of dental hygiene care in which registrants are required to read and follow the expectations within. It is a comprehensive document that covers topics such as ongoing pandemic best practices, personal protective equipment, and infection prevention and control principles and strategies. The four oral health colleges continue to be diligent in their mandate to protect the public and update the guidelines as evidence becomes available or as best practice changes.

Although the [Oral Health Care During Phases 2 and 3 of the COVID-19 Response](#) document remains current with its guidelines, it should be noted that restrictions and guidelines released by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and the Emergency Program Act (EPA) hold more authority and would take precedence over the College's guidance document.

For example, the [Oral Health Care During Phases 2 and 3 of the COVID-19 Response](#) document does not speak directly to the use of masks by the public while present at oral health care offices (i.e., hallways, reception area, etc.). In this case, the EPA order on mask usage in public indoor settings enforces this practice.

Restrictions and guidelines released by the PHO and EPA are updated and enacted regularly, therefore registrants should stay up to date on the statements released on the BC Government's [Province-wide restrictions](#) website and implement these as appropriate in their work spaces.