Air Quality & Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

BC Live is taking active measures to mitigate the spread of communicable diseases and keep its workplace and gathering places safe. Your health and well-being are important to us as we come together to share, connect, and collaborate.

Air Quality Management

Facilities like the VICC and Port Theatre use heavy-duty air distribution grids designed to pull air down and cycle it rapidly through advanced filtration equipment that captures dust, allergens, and airborne particles.

Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC)
The VICC's HVAC system uses modern electric heat pumps and automated ventilation to regulate fresh indoor air throughout the building.

The Port Theatre
The Port Theatre's HVAC system provides a combination of recycled and fresh air. The exact mix depends mostly on outside temperature and the desired indoor temperature. Modernized controls balance high-volume fresh air requirements during crowded events with efficient thermal comfort management.

Communicable Disease Prevention Protocols

We monitor information from the Public Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control and/or our health region for new or emergent communicable diseases of concern. Specifically, we rely on their guidance, notices, or orders on what steps to take and, as much as possible, be ready to implement or maintain measures as advised or directed by public health or WorkSafeBC.

• **Vaccination Encouragement:** Encourage attendees, speakers, staff, and vendors to be fully vaccinated, including recommended boosters, prior to attending the event.

• **Symptom Screening:** Implement voluntary symptom self-assessment before arrival, encouraging anyone feeling unwell to stay home and participate virtually if possible.

• **Masking**: To ensure a safe and comfortable networking environment, we encourage participants to wear high-quality masks, such as N95 or equivalent. While mask-wearing is voluntary, we strongly recommend it when maintaining physical distancing is challenging.

Communicable Disease Prevention Protocols continued

• **Hand Hygiene:** Venues have hand sanitizer available, including in every meeting room, along with hand sanitizing stations throughout the entire building. Sanitizers are available outside the elevators at every entrance, outside the washrooms, in dressing rooms, and in other locations throughout the building. We encourage frequent handwashing with signage.

• **Contact Tracing:** We collect contact information during registration to support contact tracing if a participant later reports a positive communicable disease diagnosis.

• **Surface Cleaning:** Increased cleaning frequency of high-touch surfaces such as door handles, elevator buttons, tables, and shared equipment with approved disinfectants.

• **Communication**: Clearly communicate all health and safety protocols to attendees via the conference website, registration materials, signage at the venue, and announcements.

• **Isolation Protocols**: We have established a designated isolation area for anyone who shows symptoms or feels ill during the event. We provide support and guidance for medical evaluation and safe transport home or to a healthcare facility.

If a participant becomes sick during the conference, we ask them to
• Inform BC Live's staff by email or phone or at the registration desk.
• Leave the venue/space immediately. If they can't leave immediately, protect them and others by wearing a high-quality (N95) mask.
• Wash their hands frequently.
• Avoid eating or drinking in a public space.
• Try to isolate yourself while you wait to leave.

To support the health and safety of all attendees, those who fall ill prior to or during the conference may be eligible for a refund of their registration fees. This policy is intended to remove any financial disincentive and encourage participants to report illness promptly, helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Questions
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