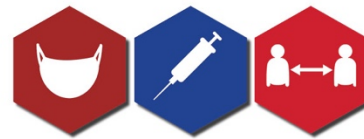




2022 SKILLS CANADA NATIONAL COMPETITION

COVID-19



POLICY AND PROTOCOL

VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE

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Document Control

Due to the ever changing COVID-19 protocols across Canada, this document is not final and will be evolving and changing until the event.

Version Number	Date Revised	Comments
V3	2022.03.04	
V2	2022.02.17	Incorporated February 17 th Province-Wide Restrictions Updates from BC
V1	2022.01.31	Document Creation

1. Introduction and Scope

This document has been developed in alignment with British Columbia public health guidance current to February 17th, 2022 and is intended for all participants and attendees of the Skills Canada National Competition. It provides an overview of potential risks and hazards due to COVID-19 and highlights what measures must be taken before and during the event to promote overall health and safety.

Throughout this document, there will be references made to websites and other online publications. For a complete list of these sources, refer to the section 'Websites / References'.

2. Preamble

COVID-19 is a deadly disease that has caused an unprecedented global pandemic in modern times, including here in Canada. While diseases can make anyone sick, some individuals are at elevated risk of getting an infection and developing severe complications due to their age, health, social and economic circumstances. Some individuals do not know they are at elevated risk.

When the pandemic began in early 2020, it was not anticipated that the virus would continue to cause mass infections, mortality, and morbidity over a year later. Instead of fading away like a seasonal flu, COVID-19 has mutated to become more infectious. It is no longer considered a transitory situation.

In addition, the most important work that we do at Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) is primarily done in person. Our stakeholders find themselves throughout the country and our annual competition requires significant travel and interaction with volunteers and students. For the core tasks of our mandate, we do not have the luxury of being able to work remotely like some other organizations. Our workplace is therefore at a higher risk of transmitting COVID-19.

Considering these realities and SCC's legal obligation to take all reasonable measures to protect those in our workplace (especially our obligations arising from the ***Occupational Health and Safety Act***), SCC has enacted this policy to provide clarity to event participants on expectations for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Event Participants in this policy refers to competitors, volunteers, contractors, delegates, sponsors, facility staff and any other individuals that would frequent the event location.

Name		Date	
Signature:			

3. Abbreviations

B.C.	British Columbia
BCCDC	British Columbia Centre for Disease Prevention
MO	Member Organizations
NTC	National Technical Committees
PHO	Provincial Health Officer
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SCC	Skills/Compétences Canada

COVID-19 Policy

4. Event Participation and Mitigation Measures

Those who choose to perform their duties and participate at SCC events do so by their choice. Below are mitigation measures used to reduce the spread or transmission of COVID-19.

5. Vaccination

Vaccination against COVID-19 is **mandatory** for all, volunteers, contractors, and participants of SCC, and volunteers and participants must provide proof they are fully vaccinated at the time of the event. “Fully vaccinated” means an Event Participant has been immunized with a vaccine that has been approved by Health Canada, including receiving all doses required to be considered “Fully Vaccinated”.

SCC Event Participants must take steps to prove their vaccination status to management. Systems for demonstrating proof of vaccination may differ in each province/territory and may change over time.

5.1. Vaccine Accommodations

Requests to be exempt from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Generally, they will be granted only to Event Participants who face extraordinary health challenges and for whom all the available COVID-19 vaccinations are contraindicated. Unequivocal medical information from the requesting Event Participants treating physician will be required to support an accommodation request.

SCC respects and upholds the rights provided by the **Human Rights Code**. SCC will give due consideration to all reasons cited for an exemption to this policy. For clarity, the interpretation of this policy and all requests for accommodation will be carried out in accordance with the **Code**.

If SCC determines that an exemption to this policy is warranted, certain conditions may be imposed on an Event Participant by which other Event Participants are not bound. Such conditions may be necessary to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission created by the accommodation measure. Some conditions may be imposed by governmental authorities, like Public Health.

An Event Participant who wishes to obtain an exemption to this policy should make the accommodation request in writing directly to Shaun Thorson, CEO. The request must state the specific reason the Event Participant seeks an exemption, and any medical proof must be attached.

6. Privacy and Confidentiality

The vaccination status of SCC Event Participants will be verified and treated as personal information, securely stored if required by law and if stored, only accessible by management. This information will be used and/or disclosed only for the purposes of workplace health and safety, when required by law and when SCC participates in any legal action. Otherwise, Event Participants vaccination status will not be used or disclosed without consent.

Self-screening information will be kept on file for the duration of the event up to and including 30 days after. After 30 days this information will be destroyed.

7. Screening

Event Participant screening will be instituted to comply with public health legislation and facility requirements. These requirements may vary depending on the event location. Additional measures may be implemented by SCC

8. Physical Distancing Measures

Physical distancing measures will be instituted to comply with public health legislation and facility requirements. These requirements may vary depending on the event location. Additional measures may be implemented by SCC.

9. Sanitization Procedures

Sanitization procedures will be instituted to comply with public health legislation and facility requirements. These requirements may vary depending on the event location. Additional measures may be implemented by SCC.

10. Face coverings

Face covering requirements will be instituted to comply with public health legislation and facility requirements. These requirements may vary depending on the event location. Additional requirements may be implemented by SCC.

11. Testing

Testing measures will be instituted to comply with public health legislation and facility requirements. These requirements may vary depending on the event location. Additional measures may be implemented by SCC.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

12. Before Leaving your Province or Territory

All event participants and attendees travelling to Vancouver will have to ensure compliance with both [federal](#)¹ and [local](#)² provincial requirements.

To travel by plane or train between all provinces and territories, passengers must:

- be fully vaccinated,
- be able to show the official proof of vaccination,
- have no signs or symptoms of COVID-19, and
- wear a mask in accordance with public health guidance.

It is important to note that a “fully vaccinated” passenger is anyone who has received their second dose of an accepted vaccine at least fourteen (14) days prior to the day of travel. In the event a participant shows signs or symptoms of COVID-19 prior to travel, they will not be permitted to board unless they can present a medical certificate that confirms the symptoms are not related to COVID-19.

12.1. Proof of Vaccination

All participants and attendees must have a COVID-19 proof of vaccination. This is critical to allow for travel and access to certain venues and services. For more information on how to obtain a COVID-19 proof of vaccination, refer to [this government of Canada page](#)³.

As this event is taking place in British Columbia, it is important to note all participants and attendees from other provinces and territories must show:

- Their provincial / territorial vaccine record, OR a federal proof of vaccination, AND
- A valid piece of government-issued photo identification.

Proof of vaccination can be provided digitally (ie. Accessed via phone, or a screenshot); all participants are encouraged to have a physical copy of their proof on hand in the event of technological difficulties. Refer to this [link](#)⁴ for more information on the Proof of Vaccination program in British Columbia.

12.2. Apps and Self-Assessment

As part of the provincial efforts to help the community stay informed about the latest COVID-19 updates, British Columbia has developed the BC COVID-19 App. [This app](#)⁵, which is available for download, provides all pertinent updates, critical alerts, and additional resources from public health. The most important part of this app is the ‘Self-Assessment Tool,’ whereby users who experience symptoms of COVID-19 can obtain additional guidance to determine if they require testing.

13. Control Measures in Place

Following the hierarchy of controls, it is not practical to fully eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission or substitute the risk with a less harmful alternative. As such, SCC has implemented a combination of engineering and administrative controls, in addition to personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements. These control measures will be highlighted in the upcoming sections.

13.1. Engineering Controls

Engineering controls are intended to separate the hazard from people. Some engineering controls used for this event include increasing venue ventilation, and the implementation of barriers.

13.2. Venue Ventilation

The Vancouver Convention Centre has built in an HVAC system – this allows for the air in the venue to be cleaned and filtered before it is recirculated back into the venue. [This particular system](#)⁸ has been specially recognized for its high efficiency filtration and air circulation capabilities to maintain a clean and healthy indoor environment.

13.3. Barriers / Barrier Cleaning

The implementation of barriers can not only identify work zones, but also physically block the transmission of contaminated airborne droplets and aerosols. Such barriers can include clear acrylic plastic or plexiglass and will be placed to separate participants and attendees where possible and appropriate. This placement must ensure aisles, exits work zones and walkways are free from obstruction and tripping hazards. Some locations where barriers will be implemented include:

- Registration booth,
- Entry point(s) for the ceremonies,
- Designated work areas for the teams, and Skill areas in the competition venue
- Meal hall tables. Lunch room MO eating areas

All barriers will be cleaned and disinfected at least once daily to ensure their efficacy.

14. If Participants or Attendees Feel Unwell

In the event participants or attendees feel unwell, they must take certain precautions to limit the potential transmission of COVID-19 to others, and manage their health and wellbeing. Additional details regarding possible scenarios will be provided in the following sections.

14.1. If Participants or Attendees Develop Symptoms at the Venue

The first step for participants or attendees who start developing symptoms of COVID-19 at the event venue is to immediately notify their Team Leader and/or the NTC Chair/NTC with Safety Responsibility. Proper steps, triage, and assessment must take place inside the skill area prior to determining next steps for this participant.

14.2. If Participants Develop Symptoms Outside of the Venue

For participants who notice an onset of COVID-19 symptoms outside of the venue (e.g., When they are at a restaurant or in their hotels), they must return to, and stay in, their room as soon as possible, and notify their Team Leader. Team leaders must inform SCC. The affected individual(s) must complete the [Self-Assessment Tool](#)¹⁰ and follow the provincial guidelines in place. If they have

concerns about their wellbeing, they can call 8-1-1 for additional guidance. If symptoms worsen, they must call 9-1-1 for medical assistance.

Participants with symptoms of COVID-19 are not permitted to enter the event, and are able to end their isolation periods only if certain criteria are met. Additional information will be provided at a later date. Refer to the section '[Self-Isolation Procedures and Timelines](#)' for additional information.

15. Monitoring and Updating this Plan

SCC will be responsible for ensuring the content of this plan has been implemented on site and is up-to-date with the most relevant information. All updates to this document will be posted on the SCC website. Changes will be clearly identified.

16. For Further Information

16.1. Contact Information for the COVID-19 Safety Team

Pacific Safety

604-278-3512

16.2. Websites / References

1. [COVID-19 Boarding Flights and Trains in Canada](https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/domestic-travel) - <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/domestic-travel>
2. [Travel and COVID-19](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/travel/current) (Government of British Columbia) - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/travel/current>
3. [How to get your Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/canadian-covid-19-proof-vaccination/get-proof.html) - <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/canadian-covid-19-proof-vaccination/get-proof.html>
4. [British Columbia Proof of Vaccination Program](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/proof) - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/proof>
5. [BC COVID-19 App](https://bc.thrive.health/) - <https://bc.thrive.health/>
6. [If You Have COVID-19](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19#mild) - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19#mild>
7. [Coast Hotels COVID-19 Housekeeping Protocols](https://www.coasthotels.com/our-story/coast-clean) - <https://www.coasthotels.com/our-story/coast-clean>
8. [Meeting Again Safely at the Vancouver Convention Centre](https://www.vancouverconventioncentre.com/meeting-again-safely) - <https://www.vancouverconventioncentre.com/meeting-again-safely>
9. [Practise hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html#hygiene) - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html#hygiene>
10. [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en) - <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>
11. [What to do if you test positive for COVID-19](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19#testedpositive) - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19#testedpositive>
12. [COVID Positive Test Result Reporting Form](https://reportcovidresults.bccdc.ca/) - <https://reportcovidresults.bccdc.ca/>
13. [Close contacts and contact tracing](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/close-contacts) - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/close-contacts>
14. [How to self-isolate](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation) - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation>
15. [Self-Isolation and Self-Monitoring](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation#Self-isolation) - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation#Self-isolation>
16. [Managing your symptoms](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19#manage) - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19#manage>