

COVID-19 Safety Plan Griz Days 2022	<i>Fernie Chamber of Commerce</i>
Date of Issue: March 5 th 2022	Completed By: Jesse Ross

Purpose of COVID-19 Safety Plan

This COVID-19 safety plan has been created by the Fernie Chamber of Commerce to outline the policies and procedures that have been put in place to protect the community, employees, volunteers, guests, and others at Griz Days to the potential transmission of COVID-19. This event and plan align with current Provincial Health Officer (PHO) orders. Please visit ferniegrizdays.com for more details regarding Griz Days.

Overview of Griz Days

Commencing 45 years ago, Griz Days is Fernie's annual outdoor winter festival to celebrate Fernie's winter heritage. There is live music, food vendors, a parade and a lumberjack show. This is not a ticketed event and is considered a gathering as anyone can come by to enjoy Griz Days.

This document applies to all events that are organized by the Griz Days Organizing Committee only. There are several "Satellite" events put on by local community groups that have their own covid safety plans in place.

Responsibilities

The Fernie Chamber of Commerce is responsible for the development of this plan including risk assessments, supporting policies, monitoring and adapting the plan and addressing concerns. Our COVID-19 Safety Plan will be communicated to all employees, participants and volunteers. It will also be available to the public in the info tent during Griz Days (Saturday March 5th).

All Fernie Chamber of Commerce employees and contractors will follow this safety plan as a condition of employment. If employees have any concerns regarding this plan they are to bring them to the attention of Jesse Ross, Visitor Services Manager and Griz Days organizer 250 946 7516 or jesse@fernierchamber.com.

Identify the Risks

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a coronavirus. This particular coronavirus was a new virus first recognized in December 2019, originating in Wuhan, China. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some of which infect animals and others that can infect humans. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020.

Symptoms of the illness are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the common cold and influenza. In some cases, COVID-19 symptoms may appear to be mild but can worsen within a few days and become fatal. With research from the various variants, the related symptoms listed below are most likely related to COVID-19 than other respiratory illnesses.

Key Symptoms may include:

- Fever and/or chills
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing

Other Symptoms may include:

- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Headache and/or body aches
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Diarrhea

The virus, among other respiratory infections, generally spreads from person to person through liquid droplets when a person speaks, coughs or sneezes. Droplets can either be larger and heavier, falling to the ground within two meters, or smaller aerosols which are more airborne and float in the air for longer periods of time and distance. Though COVID-19 can survive on different surfaces for hours or days, the transmission rates from contact with contaminated surfaces appears to be low yet should be mitigated

anyway. The risk of transmission increases the closer you come to other people, the more people you come into contact with, and the length of time you spend with other people. This is why it is critical to control these interactions in the workplace, to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

The following indoor areas have been identified as areas where employees and/or guests may gather or have considerable interaction:

- Fernie Senior Centre for the pancake eating contest
- Bathrooms at Station Square

The following outdoor events bring our employees, volunteers and spectators close to one another:

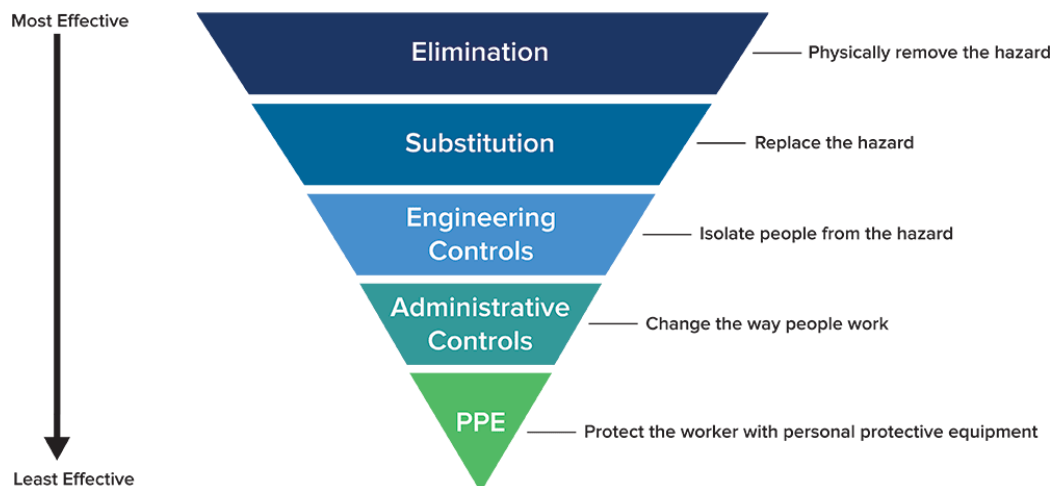
- Live music
- Food vendors
- Parade
- Lumberjack shows

The following tools, machinery and equipment have been identified as items that employees and/or guests share:

- Pens
- Sales of Griz pins
- Cash handling
- Tent space
- Tables
- Chairs
- Sound equipment on stage

Control the Risks

Types of risk controls



Elimination or Substitution are the highest, most effective levels of control and involve removing the risk of exposure to a given hazard entirely, or substituting a hazard for something that is less harmful. We have modified the following for Griz Days 2022:

- Extreme Griz - removed events that required close contact and focused on outdoor events
- Beer garden removed to avoid party atmosphere and to encourage to support local bars and restaurants
- Removed events that can't have people social distance or be in close contact (smoosh race and bed race)
- Removed tents with tables for gathering
- Parade route was extended to allow for people to spread out to view
- Live music and lumberjack shows are doing more sets for a shorter time
- Fireworks will be elevated and higher altitude so they can be viewed from further away so people can spread out to watch

We have implemented the following controls ensure physical distancing:

- Consider wearing a mask when social distancing is not possible
- All events are subject to change based on PHO recommendations and restrictions at the time of the event

Engineering controls include placing physical barriers between people when physical distancing cannot be maintained and ensuring adequate ventilation and air circulation.

- Tents that we couldn't remove are only 3 sided to support adequate ventilation

Administrative controls: signage has been placed throughout station square to remind guests of the following:

- Increased sanitation of high touch points
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the event
- COVID-19 Safety plans required for all "satellite events" and food vendors
- Reminder signs will be posted throughout the event as reminders of the below:



15 pcs, 24" x 36"
full colour print on coroplast (no laminate)
grommets, top two corners

\$56.97 each

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

We have put the following PPE controls in place:

- Encourage people to wear masks when social distance is not possible
- Disposable face masks and gloves will be available to anyone who wants one
- Sanitizer

Policies and Procedures

Healthy Workers Policy

All employees and volunteers must only report for duty if they are in good health and not experiencing any communicable disease symptoms. Employees and volunteers must always follow guidance from Public Health regarding needs for self-isolation and self-monitoring. Topics to consider when assessing oneself for on-site work include having symptoms of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease, if you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and you are not fully vaccinated, as well as if you have traveled outside Canada within the last 14 days and you are not fully vaccinated.

Anyone displaying any of the symptoms listed earlier in this Safety Plan must not attend the workplace and is encouraged to partake in the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) online and/or call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 for further direction from Public Health.

Any worker that receives a positive COVID-19 test result will not be allowed to return to the workplace until the following conditions are met:

- 1) **Fully Vaccinated:** at least 5 days have passed when symptoms first started (or from the test date if asymptomatic). Face coverings should be worn even where masks aren't required and avoid high risk environments such as gatherings for an additional 5 days past the end of isolation.
Not Fully Vaccinated: at least 10 days have passed when symptoms first started (or from the test date if asymptomatic).
- 2) No sign of fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication that reduces fever symptoms.
- 3) Symptoms have improved.

When the conditions listed above are met, individuals are not considered contagious and may return to the workplace. Though able to return, recovery from the illness may take up to two weeks for mild cases and twelve weeks for severe symptoms.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing includes limiting close contact with other people. This can be achieved by limiting one's interactions with others all together and providing extra space (2 metres) with other who you cannot avoid all together. Sometimes, 2 metres will not be practicable which is where engineering controls such as barriers must be used and non-face-to-face interaction is encouraged (i.e. phone calls or emails).

- The parade has been modified to a "extended route" so promote social distancing
- The fireworks are being set from a boom lift to encourage social distancing so they can be enjoyed safely from your home or anywhere in the downtown area
- Signage will be posted in the bathrooms for max occupancy

Hand Washing

All staff and volunteers must wash their hands before handling food or use hand sanitizer provided. Soap and water are preferred, but hand sanitizer with at least a 70% alcohol base can be used when soap and water is unavailable, or as an additional control.

Handwashing reminders will be posted in the bathrooms

Cleaning and Disinfection

Virex II and paper towel will be available to disinfect any high touch areas (info tent, pens, etc..)

First Aid

All first aid attendants (Jesse Ross and Bradley Parsell) must follow the WorkSafeBC Occupational First Aid Attendants (OFAA) guidelines when responding to a first aid emergency.

Communication and Training

Contractors, volunteers and staff must understand how to keep themselves and others safe. They will stay at home when sick, understanding occupancy limits, hand washing procedures, how to wear a face covering properly, and how workers can provide feedback. our COVID-19 Safety Plan will be communicated to workers by providing a copy of the plan to them, reviewing it with them, having a copy in the info tent as well as posting it on the ferniegrizdays.com website.