

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 |
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| V7 | 2022.05.09 | Adjustment of proof of vaccination, face coverings and content revisions |
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1. Introduction and Scope

This document has been developed in alignment with British Columbia public health guidance current to May 10th, 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 two years later.

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

Considering these realities we will take all reasonable measures to protect those in at our events, and as such SCC has enacted this policy to provide clarity to event participants on expectations for COVID-19 protocols.

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

3. Abbreviations

| B.C. | British Columbia |
|-------|--|
| BCCDC | British Columbia Centre for Disease Prevention |
| МО | Member Organizations |
| NTC | National Technical Committees |
| РНО | Provincial Health Officer |
| PPE | Personal Protective Equipment |
| SCC | Skills/Compétences Canada |
| SCNC | Skills Canada National Competition |

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1. Competitors

- Role
 - o A participant who voluntarily participates in a contest in a specific skill.
- Competitors will
 - o Lead by example;
 - o Complete all documentation and reporting as required by SCC; and
 - o Review, understand and comply with all elements of this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol.

4.2. Volunteers

- Role
 - o A participant who voluntarily gives their time and labour for the SCNC. At the SCNC, we have volunteers as administrative support, general skill area support, specific skill area support, and members of the national secretariat committees.
- Volunteers will
 - o Lead by example;
 - o Complete all documentation and reporting as required by SCC;
 - o Provide feedback for improvements to this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol as appropriate;
 - o Identify, communicate and implement controls to mitigate event hazards; and
 - o Review, understand and comply with all elements of this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol.

4.3. National Technical Committee (NTC) Chair

- Role
 - o A participant who voluntarily gives their time and labour for the SCNC. The chair of a specific skill area of the NTC. There is one chair for every skill.
- The NTC Chair will
 - o Lead by example;
 - Complete all documentation and reporting as required by SCC;
 - o Provide feedback for improvements to this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol as appropriate;
 - o Identify, communicate and implement controls to mitigate event hazards; and
 - o Review, understand and comply with all elements of this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol.
 - o Ensure all instances of confirmed COVID-19 cases are investigated and communicated;

4.4. Sponsors and Partners will:

- Role
 - A company or group who support and sponsors SCC in its activities.
- Sponsors and partners will
 - o Lead by example;
 - o Provide the means and direction to ensure a healthy and safe event;
 - o Identify, communicate and implement controls to mitigate event hazards; and
 - o Review, understand and comply with all elements of this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol.

4.5. SCC and MO Staff will:

- Role
- Staff member of SCC and MO
- SCC and MO staff will
 - o Lead by example;
 - o Provide guidance, and the means and direction as needed to ensure a healthy and safe event;
 - o Ensure adequate personal protective equipment is provided and used;
 - o Establish, coordinate, implement and maintain this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol;
 - o Identify, communicate and implement controls to mitigate event hazards;
 - o Ensure all instances of confirmed COVID-19 cases are investigated and communicated;
 - Complete all documentation as required;
 - o Enforce safety rules and COVID control measures while conducting periodic event inspections;
 - Ensure all event participants and attendees comply with the content of this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol.

4.6. Member Organization Team Leaders

- Role
 - o Each MO selects Team Leaders(s) to liaise with SCC during the competition. A staff of a MO will be selected for this role.
- MO Team Leaders will
 - o Lead by example;
 - o Provide guidance, and the means and direction as needed to ensure a healthy and safe event;
 - o Ensure adequate personal protective equipment is provided and used;
 - o Establish, coordinate, implement and maintain this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol;
 - o Identify, communicate and implement controls to mitigate event hazards;
 - Ensure all instances of confirmed COVID-19 cases are investigated and communicated;
 - o Complete all documentation as required;
 - Enforce safety rules and COVID control measures while conducting periodic event inspections;
 and
 - o Ensure all event participants and attendees comply with the content of this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol.

4.7. Delegates

- Role
 - o A participant who voluntarily registered to attend SCNC and who purchased a delegate package.
- Delegates will
 - o Review, understand and comply with all elements of this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol.

4.8. Event Participants from field trips will:

- Role
 - o Registered school participants who is attending the event as a spectator.
- Event participants from field trips will
 - o Comply with all elements of their specific COVID procedures, which must be in alignment with this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol.

4.9. Visitors

- All event visitors will
 - o Comply with all elements of the venue's COVID procedures, this COVID Safety Policy and Protocol where applicable, and
 - o Report to First Aid when they experience the onset of COVID symptoms.

COVID-19 Policy

5. 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.

6. Vaccination

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination 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.

7. 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.

8. 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

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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

13. Promoting Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

All participants must sanitize their hands prior to entering the facility, and throughout the day as required. Participants who bus to and from the venue must also sanitize their hands prior to boarding. Sanitation methods include the use of alcohol- based hand sanitizer (consisting of at least 60% alcohol) and washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available throughout the venue.

According to guidance from the government of Canada, good respiratory etiquette means:

"When coughing or sneezing, you should:

- 1. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand, if you're not wearing a mask
- 2. Dispose of any tissues you've used as soon as possible in a plastic-lined waste container
- 3. Clean your hands immediately afterwards"

For additional guidance on hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, refer to the government of Canada site⁹.

14. Before Leaving your Province or Territory

All event participants and attendees travelling to Vancouver will have to ensure compliance with both <u>federal</u>¹ and <u>local</u>² provincial requirements.

To travel by federally regulated transportation 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.

14.1. Proof of Vaccination

Proof of vaccination is not required at this time.

14.2. 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 app⁵, 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.

If participants or attendees have concerns regarding their health and COVID-19, they are strongly encouraged to call the provincial health information and advice phone line at '8-1-1'.

15. Travel to/from the Venue and During the Event

Participants and attendees may be exposed to contaminated surfaces and/or airborne droplets and aerosols while travelling to or from the venue, and during the event. Participants are encouraged to travel outdoors to minimize risk of exposure to COVID-19 where possible. If bus travel is required, participants must wear a mask onboard at all

times, follow all hand hygiene practices and implement physical distancing where practicable. If possible, windows can be opened to allow for increased air circulation.

16. Crowding / Congregating

There may be groups of spectators at this event, such as judges, volunteers, other participants, and attendees. It is important to recognize that crowding together increases the likelihood of exposure to contaminated airborne droplets and aerosols. In addition to the controls required at the venue, the following controls will be implemented to mitigate this potential risk from crowding or congregating:

- Barriers to separate event locations and participants,
- Signage to remind all attendees to physically distance where possible

17. Outside of the Venue

After participants depart the venue, they may choose to visit restaurants or stores on their own time. While SCC cannot limit participants' access to local facilities, it is important to remember and recognize that unnecessary trips outside of the hotel and venue increase the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19. When outside of the venue, participants must continue to follow all local health authority guidance and the implemented procedures at their location.

18. 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.

18.1. 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.

18.2. 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 has been specially recognized for its high efficiency filtration and air circulation capabilities to maintain a clean and healthy indoor environment.

18.3. 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 may 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.

19. Administrative Controls

Administrative controls are the rules, procedures, guidelines and work arrangements that affect how people work in order to reduce exposure to risks. Some administrative controls used for this event include signage, face coverings, physical distancing, screening/self-assessment tool and a 75% venue occupancy limit.

19.1. Signage

Various signs and indicators around the venue remind all participants and attendees of the event's required control measures. Examples of signage are included in Appendix B.

19.2. Physical Distancing

Participants reduce the risk of droplet and aerosol transmission by maintaining an adequate distance of 2 metres between each other. Additional best practices include avoiding non-essential in-person interactions, and keeping required interactions as brief as possible. All participants and attendees must recognize that others may have a different comfort level of physical distance, and all perspectives must be respected.

Participants will be provided with stickers for their name badge, intended to signify their comfort level with physical distancing. The following table shows the colours and their corresponding meanings:



19.1. Screening

Throughout the duration of the event, participants are responsible for monitoring their health status and reporting to their Team Leader or the Chair of the NTC if they feel unwell.

19.2. Local Initiatives

The province of British Columbia has developed additional tools that are available to all participants. These tools provide additional resources and guidance on COVID-19 measures. For more details, refer to the section 'Apps and Self-Assessment'.

20. Personal Protective Equipment

PPE is the last line of protection against hazards. In addition to the requirement for facemasks that cover the nose and mouth, hand sanitizer will be readily available at the venue to promote healthy hand hygiene.

20.1. Hand Sanitation

Strong hand hygiene practices will reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission throughout the event. For additional details on hand sanitation practices and what measures will be available refer to the section 'Promoting Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette'.

21. If Participants or Visitors 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.

21.1. If Event Visitors Develop Symptoms at the Venue

Event visitors who start developing symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately remove themselves from the venue and follow the local public health guidance.

21.2. If Participants Develop Symptoms at the Venue

The first step for participants 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 Reponsibility. Proper steps, triage, and assessment must take place inside the skill area prior to determining next steps for this participant.

21.3. 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 Tool¹⁰ 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.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever or chills,
- Cough,
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,
- Fatigue,
- Muscle or body aches,
- Headache,
- New loss of taste or smell,
- Sore throat,
- Congestion or runny nose,
- Nausea or vomiting, and
- Diarrhea.

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.

21.4. Severity of Symptoms and Testing

In most cases, symptoms of COVID-19 are generally mild for vaccinated individuals. Participants must follow the guidance provided to them upon completion of the <u>Self-Assessment Tool</u>⁹. Affected individual(s) experiencing mild symptoms can manage this from their own room until symptoms subside (ie. Self-isolate). In the case of more serious symptoms, the Self-Assessment Tool may recommend that the affected individual(s) obtain a COVID-19 test or see a medical professional.

21.5. If a Positive Test Result is Obtained

After receiving a confirmation of a positive rapid test result, affected individuals must follow these <u>two</u> steps¹⁰, as per the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC):

- Self-isolate and manage symptoms, and
- Determine if additional treatment is required.

For more information on self-isolation procedures and managing symptoms, refer to the following sections. Team Leaders will be responsible for notifying close contacts of participants upon receiving the initial report of a positive COVID test.

A close contact is defined by the <u>BCCDC</u>¹² as "someone who has been near a person with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes when health and safety measures were not in place or sufficient".

21.6. Self-Isolation Procedures and Timelines

Self-isolation keeps affected individuals away from others to limit virus transmission. During this time, it is critical for the affected persons to still stay away from the event, self-monitor and manage their symptoms to ensure their wellbeing. Participants must self-isolate if they test positive for COVID-19 or develop symptoms of COVID-19 where testing is not recommended.

<u>During self-isolation</u>¹³, affected individuals must:

- Stay in their room and not leave even while waiting for test results,
- Not attend the event or visit other public places,
- Not have visitors to their room,
- Make every reasonable effort to have food, medication and supplies delivered to them,
- Continue to practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette,
- Self monitor for symptoms, and
- Call 9-1-1 if symptoms worsen.

To determine when self-isolation can conclude, follow the <u>guidance</u>¹⁴ in the table below, summarized from the BCCDC:

| Self-Isolation Scenarios and Timelines | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Affected individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and is fully vaccinated. | Affected individual was not recommended to get a COVID-19 test, but still shows symptoms. | | | | |
| Self-isolate in the hotel room for five (5) days, AND until symptoms have improved, and fever has subsided without the aid of medication. | Currently, there is no prescribed timeframe for self-isolating in this scenario. The affected individual must continue to self-isolate until symptoms improve, the fever has | | | | |

- At this stage, self-isolation can end, as long as the affected individual avoids non-essential visits to high-risk settings for an additional five (5) days.
- There is no requirement to obtain a negative test result to end the self-isolation period.

subsided, and they feel well enough to return to normal activities.

21.7. Managing Symptoms

In most cases, affected individuals can manage their symptoms with typical home treatments, such as drinking enough fluids, getting enough rest and treating with medication as needed. If required, participants can call 8-1-1 for additional guidance, or 9-1-1 if symptoms worsen.

For additional details on managing symptoms, refer to this guidance¹⁵ from the BCCDC.

21.8. Participant Notification and Awareness

Affected individuals must notify their Team Leaders/NTC Chair as soon as possible after experiencing onset of symptoms. This will be escalated to SCC for the appropriate notification and awareness. Close contacts to the affected individuals will be specifically notified by the SCC that they have been in close proximity to someone reporting symptoms, and they will be required to self-monitor for the development of symptoms.

Some methods of communication that will be used include phone / text alerts, emails, bulletins, and / or updates to the event website.

22. Communication and Training

All event participants are responsible for being familiar and complying with the contents of this COVID Mitigation Plan. Team Leaders are responsible for ensuring all members of their team have reviewed and understand the contents of this plan.

23. Where to Find this Plan

The latest version of this COVID Mitigation Plan will be available on the SCC website.

24. Communications

Throughout the event, different mediums of communication will be used to maximize overall awareness. Some examples include cell phone or text alerts, emails, bulletins, updates to the event website, and in-person communications.

25. Privacy and Confidentiality

Throughout the event, all personal information collected from participants will only be used where absolutely required. Personal information from participants will be retained for a period of thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the event. After 30 days have elapsed, all documents with sensitive information will be destroyed.

26. 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.

27. For Further Information

27.1. Contact Information for the COVID-19 Safety Team

27.2. Websites / References

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