

**BC'S RESTART**

**BC's RESTART:  
A Plan to  
Bring Us Back Together**

May 25, 2021

# A Plan to Bring Us Back Together

**BC's Restart is a careful, four-step plan to help bring us back together**

**Our approach, like last year's restart, is focused on protecting people and safely getting back to a more normal life**

**We now have an important tool supporting our fight against the pandemic – vaccines**

**With more and more people getting vaccinated each day, we can gradually restart our important social connections, businesses, and activities**

# How We Got Here

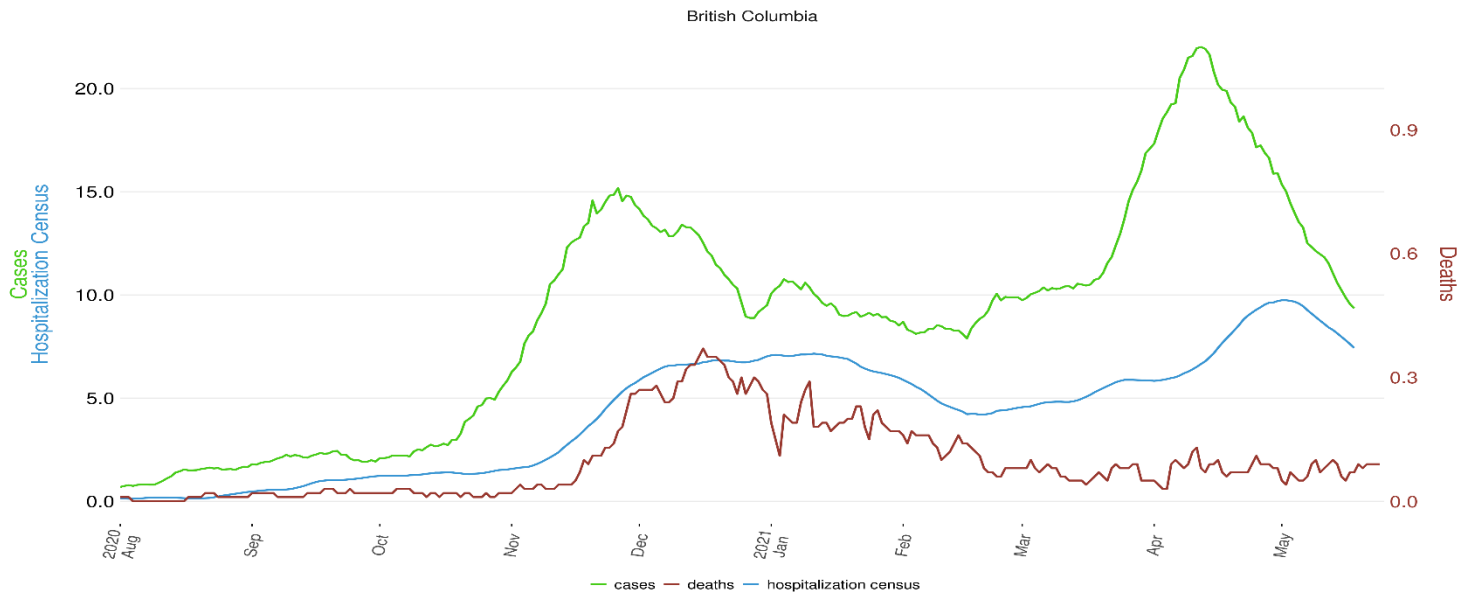
- **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020** (the Second Wave)
  - Limit guests in private residences to 6
  - Province-wide restrictions introduced for indoor social gatherings
- **NOVEMBER 2020**
  - Province-wide suspension of events
  - Cases and COVID-19 hospitalizations trending up
- **DECEMBER 15, 2020**
  - First vaccine administered in BC
- **FEBRUARY 2021**
  - All of long-term care vaccinated with first dose – declining outbreaks at long-term care
  - Health care workers, Indigenous communities, most vulnerable populations receive 1st dose

# How We Got Here

- **MARCH-APRIL 2021** (the Third Wave)
  - Surge in cases
  - Increased pressure on health care system
  - New temporary measures/restrictions (circuit breaker)
  - British Columbians step up and reduce social interactions and travel
  - BC businesses pull together to keep people safe
- **APRIL-MAY 2021**
  - British Columbians register for vaccines in record numbers
- **MAY 24, 2021**
  - More than 60% of people aged 18+ vaccinated with first dose

# Vaccination is Making a Difference in BC

New daily rates per 100K population  
(7-day moving average)



Data up to 2021-05-24

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# Foundations for a Successful Restart

## People are getting vaccinated

More than 60% of British Columbians aged 18+ are vaccinated with their first dose — everyone 12+ now eligible

## COVID-19 case counts declining

7-day average of case counts down more than 65% to 384 (May 23rd) from peak of 1135 (April 12th)

## Fewer people are in hospital

COVID-19 hospitalization rates are declining from a 7-day average peak of 505 (May 2<sup>nd</sup>) to 353 (May 21<sup>st</sup>)

## A steady vaccine supply

More and more vaccines are arriving each week – over 1 million doses of Pfizer in May

# Our Focus

**Bringing us back together – gradually**

**Keeping BC safe, getting people vaccinated and making sure our sacrifices aren't put at risk**

**Providing British Columbians with as much predictability as we can about our path forward**

**Supporting sectors across our economy as they adjust Safety Plans, return to normal operation**

**Staying flexible, monitoring the data and learning from our restart**

STEP	Criteria	PHO Guidance	Personal Gatherings	Organized Gatherings	Travel	Sports & Activities	Businesses	Offices & Workplaces
<b>1</b> MAY 25	C: stable H: stable D1: 60%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 10 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 10 people Outdoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people	Recreational travel within your zone Non-essential travel between zones restricted	Low-intensity indoor fitness classes Outdoor local team games and practices for all ages – no spectators	Indoor & outdoor dining – up to 6 people Liquor service - 10PM Existing WorkSafeBC Safety Plans remain in place	Start gradual return to workplaces and offices Existing Safety Plans remain in place
<b>2</b> JUNE 15 (Earliest date)	C: declining H: declining D1: 65%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 50 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household Playdates	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people Sector consultations on next steps on indoor and outdoor gatherings	BC recreational travel BC Transit and BC Ferries – increased services as needed	High-intensity indoor fitness classes - reduced capacity Indoor team games for all ages – no spectators Spectators for outdoor sports – up to 50 people	Liquor service – midnight Banquet halls reopen – limited capacity, Safety Plans Sector consultations on next steps on easing of restrictions	Continue return to work Small in-person meetings
<b>3</b> JULY 1 (Earliest date)	C: low H: declining D1: 70%	Masks – recommended Careful social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings Sleepovers	Increased capacity, indoor and outdoor gatherings – Safety Plan Fairs & festivals with Safety Plan	Canada recreational travel	All indoor fitness classes – increased capacity Limited spectators for indoor sports	Dining – no group limit Bingo halls, casinos and nightclubs – limited capacity Operate based on new Safety Plans	Seminars and bigger meetings Operate based on new Safety Plans
<b>4</b> SEPT 7 (Earliest date)	C: low H: low D1: 70%+	Masks – personal choice Normal social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Normal social contact	Increased capacity on large organized gatherings (i.e. concerts)	Canada recreational travel	Increased indoor and outdoor spectators Return of normal sport competitions – Safety Plans	Continue to operate based on new Safety Plans	Fully re-opened offices and workplaces

**C:** C-19 case counts    **H:** C-19 hospitalizations    **D1:** minimum % of people 18+ with dose 1

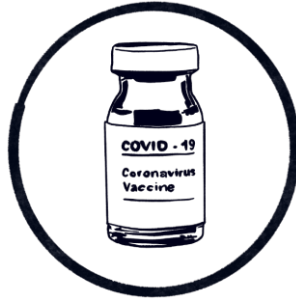


# Moving Forward Through the Steps

To progress through the four steps of our plan, we will be looking at:



COVID-19 case counts trends



Vaccination rates for 18+



COVID-19 hospitalizations including critical care

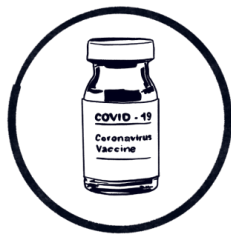


COVID-19 mortality

**Increased vaccination rates will be central to moving forward**

# Keeping Each Other Safe

We must keep up our layers of protection as we move through BC's Restart and work towards achieving community immunity.



Get vaccinated



Follow mask guidance



Stay home and get tested when you're sick



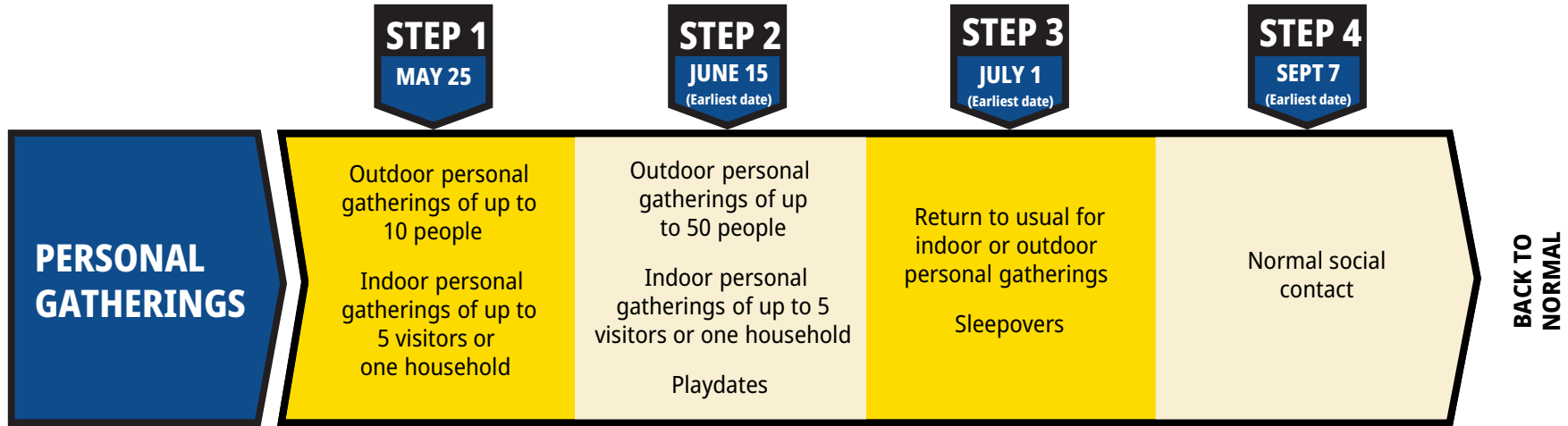
Follow WorkSafeBC guidelines for workplaces



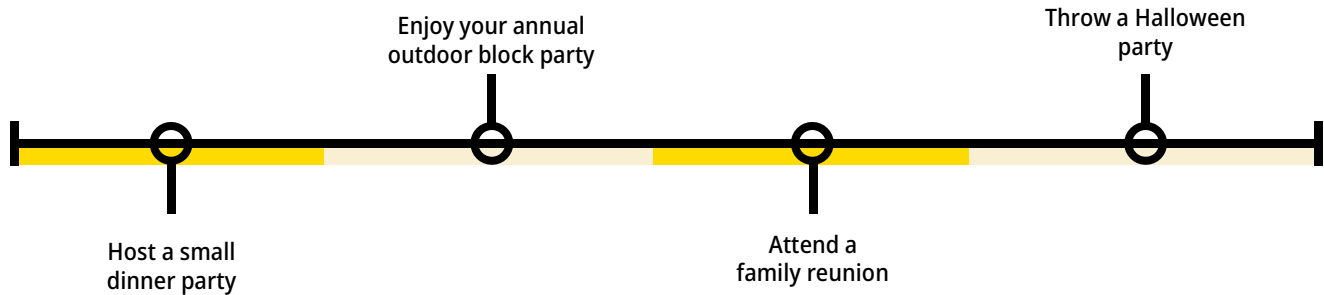
It's always safer outdoors



Consider other people's situation

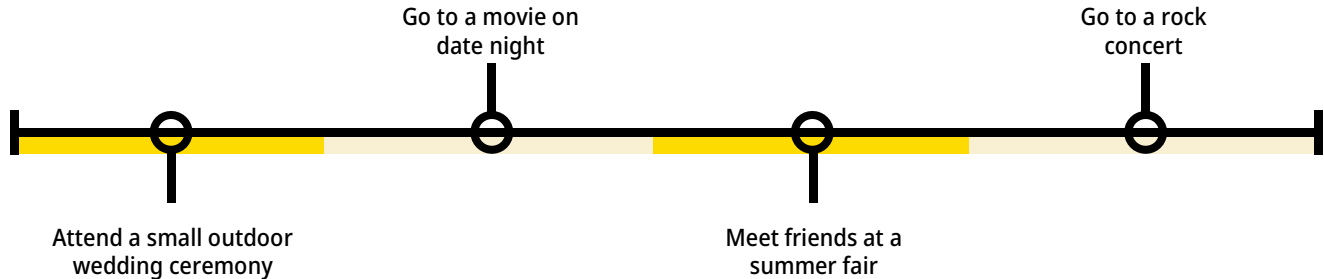


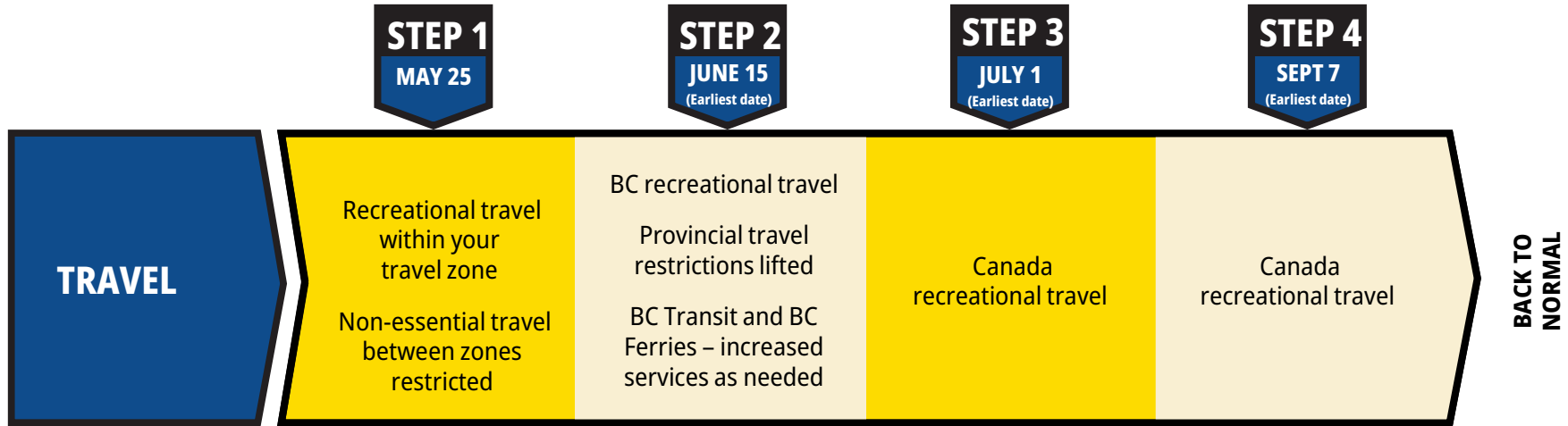
**Examples of what this might mean for you**



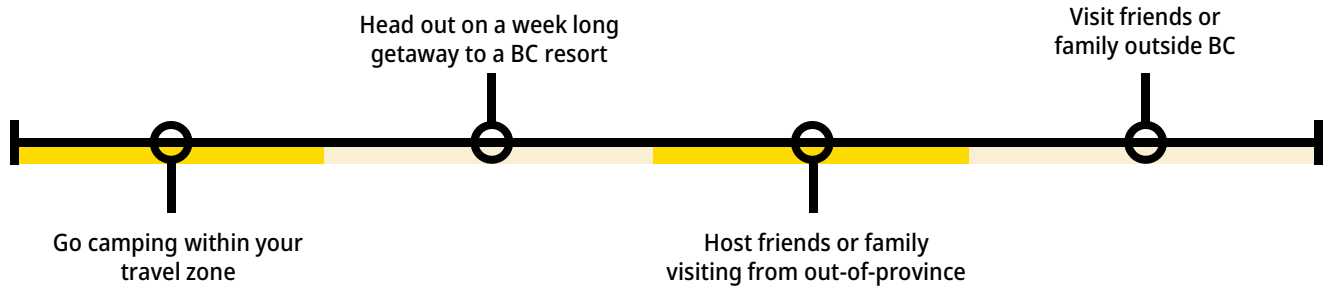


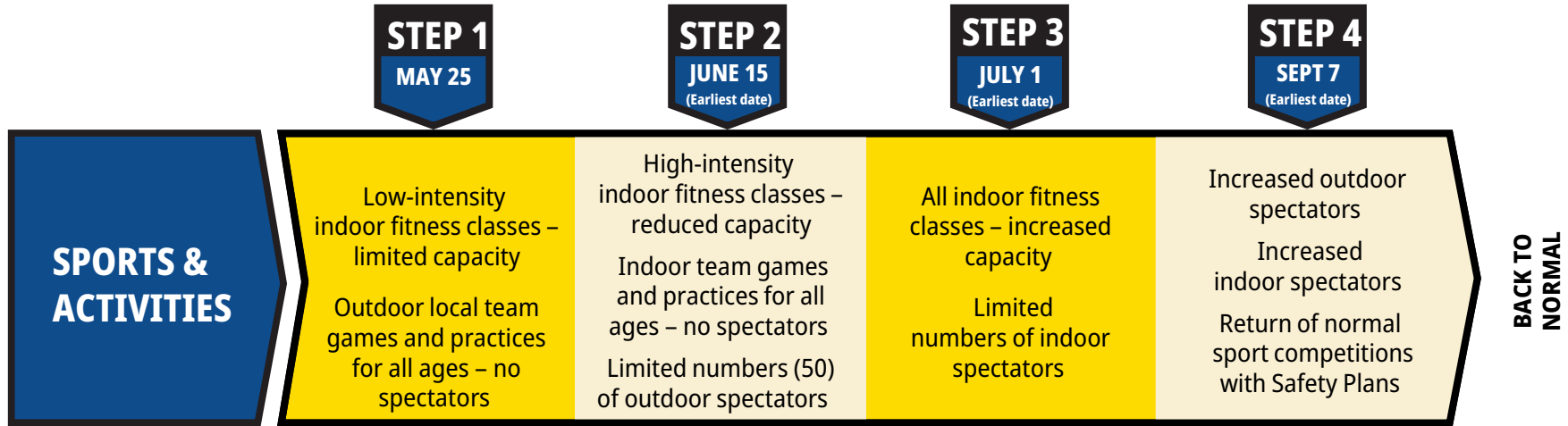
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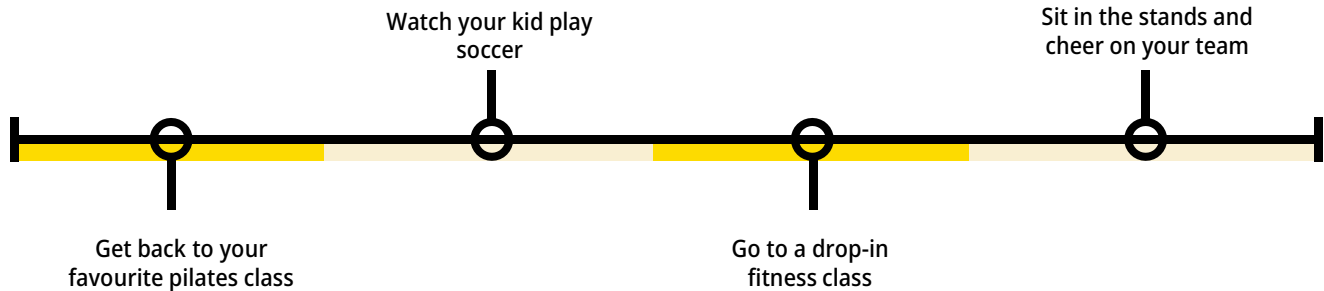


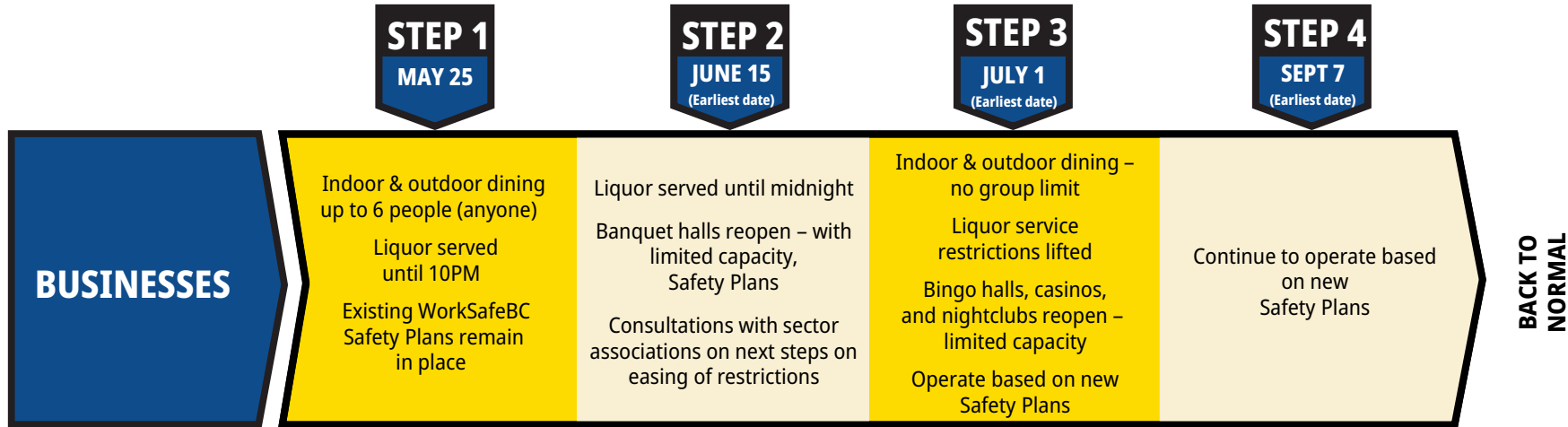
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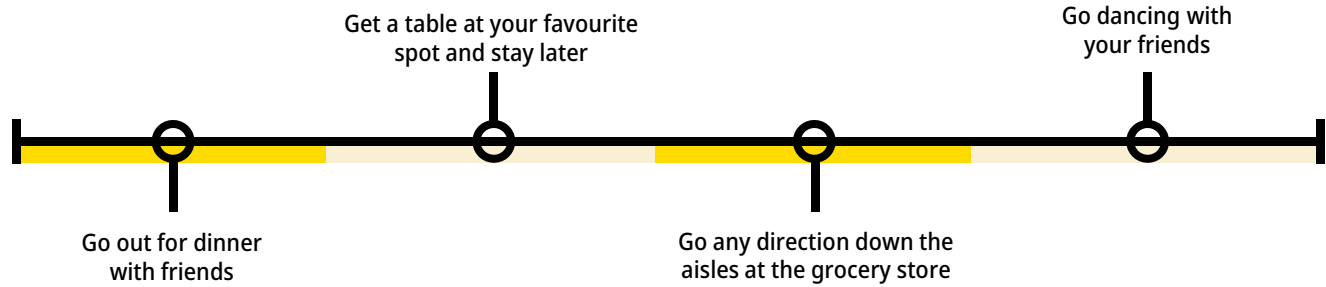


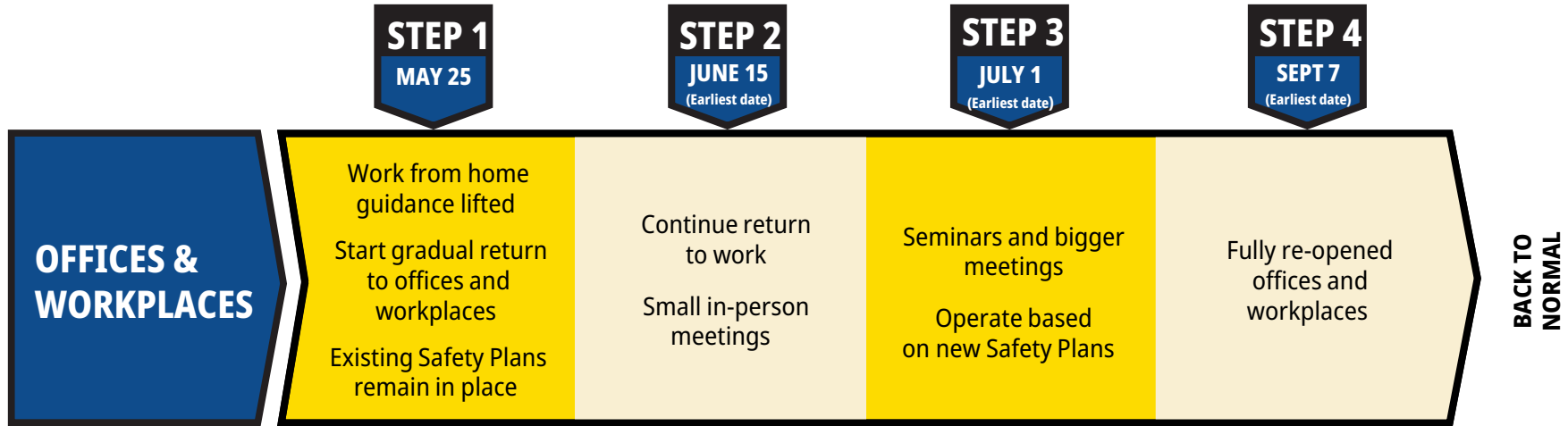
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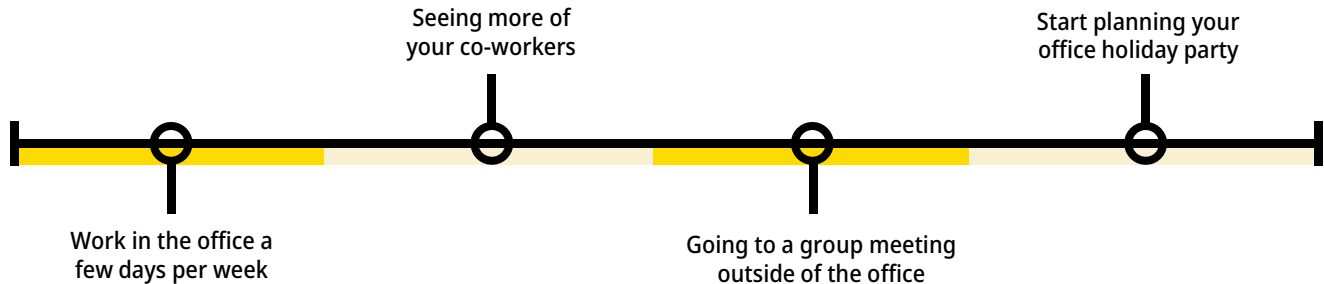


Examples of what this might mean for you





**Examples of what this might mean for you**





# Engaging and Supporting Employers

- Roundtables will be initiated by ministries across government to engage with industry and labour to develop comprehensive updated industry-specific Safety Plans – as well as engaging with First Nations and municipal governments.
- WorkSafeBC will continue to support employers with oversight, tools and resources to help keep their plans up-to-date – including 30 industry-specific protocols.
- Last year, WorkSafeBC carried out nearly 3,900 employer consultations to support employers with their Safety Plans and conducted more than 22,000 inspections in workplaces and sectors experiencing higher transmission.

# Updating WorkSafeBC Safety Plans

## In Step 1 and Step 2:

Restaurants, bars and pubs, as well as indoor fitness facilities, will return to existing safety protocols in place prior to the circuit breaker.

Accommodation sector to accept bookings from within regional zone (Step 1) and then across BC (Step 2).

For other sectors, existing safety protocols remain in place.

Sector associations will work with public health and WorkSafeBC to update sector guidelines to meet updated public health guidance, in advance of Step 3.

## In Step 3 and Step 4:

New public health guidance in place.

All workplace Safety Plans should be updated by July 1 – based on updated sector guidelines – in order to transition to Step 3.

Updated Safety Plans for workplaces will be developed with guidance from PHO and WorkSafeBC.

Employers must involve frontline workers, joint health and safety committees, and supervisors in identifying protocols for their workplace.

# Moving Forward, Together

- We are in a position to restart thanks to the efforts of so many – including the more than 2.7 million people who have received dose 1.
- We must support our friends, family and community to get vaccinated, including their second doses.
- We will enter the fall and winter respiratory season as a community vaccinated against COVID-19. We will continue to monitor and respond to COVID-19.
- Everyone's level of comfort and tolerance for risk will be different.
- As we move forward, we will continue to focus on keeping people safe and follow the advice of public health officials.

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