

# Restrictions on travel between regions of the province

This content is a summary of the Emergency Program Act (EPA) [Ministerial Order No. M1721](#). It is not legal advice and does not provide an interpretation of the law. In the event of any conflict or difference between this webpage and the order, the order is correct and legal and must be followed.

Under the EPA, an order restricting non-essential travel between certain regions of the province is in place until May 25 at midnight. This includes travel for:

- Vacations, weekend getaways and tourism activities
- Visiting family or friends for social reasons
- Recreation activities

## Travel regions

The order combines B.C.'s five health authorities into three regions of the province. Travel into and out of the regions for non-essential reasons is not allowed and is now prohibited by law. The regions are:

1. Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley (Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health)
2. Northern/Interior (Northern Health and Interior Health, including Bella Coola Valley, the Central Coast and Hope)
  - Residents from the Hope area can travel to Chilliwack for essential goods and supplies
  - Residents from the Bella Coola Valley and Central Coast area can travel to Port Hardy for essential goods and supplies
3. Vancouver Island (Vancouver Island Health)

## Enforcement

The goal of the order is education and reminding people about travel restrictions.

If the restrictions need to be enforced, police can issue a fine. At the discretion of police, people not obeying the travel restrictions may be subject to a [\\$575 fine](#).

**Police will not be engaging in random checks.** Periodic road checks may be set up at key travel corridors during times associated with leisure travel to remind travelers of the order.

People from outside the province who are travelling to B.C. for non-essential reasons can be subject to the same enforcement measures.

## Reasons for essential travel

Essential travel between regions is allowed. Essential reasons include:

- Returning to your principal residence, moving or helping someone move
- Work, both paid and unpaid (volunteer)
- Commercial transportation of goods
- Getting health care or social services or helping someone get those services
- Court appearance, complying with a court order or parole check-in
- Exercising parental responsibilities
- Child care services
- Attending classes at a post-secondary institution or school
- Responding to a critical incident, like search and rescue operations
- Providing care to a person because of a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or a physical, cognitive or mental impairment
- Visiting a resident (as an essential visitor) at long-term care or assisted living facility
- Attending a funeral
- Travelling under a PHO variance. For example, BCHL

**Do not go on long trips within your region.** Now is not the time for overnight vacations away from your community. Stay close to home. Visit your local beach, hiking trail or park.

## Additional measures

Additional measures are in place to support the restriction on non-essential travel, including:

- Increased signage on highways and at border crossings reminding travellers of current restrictions
- Hotels and resorts eliminating or cancelling bookings from out of area guests