



# Media Release

**Date:** December 21, 2021

For immediate release

## **RDCK fitness centres to be closed until January 18** **Private bookings and some events also affected by new restrictions**

Nelson, BC: By order of the British Columbia Provincial Health Officer (PHO), fitness centres at Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) recreation facilities will be closed as of Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at 11:59pm until January 18, 2022. The PHO ordered these and other new restrictions today in response to the escalating COVID-19 situation; specifically the surging cases of the Omicron variant across the province.

In addition, private bookings of meetings rooms, banquet halls, ice, pools and other facilities will not be accepted for this time period. Some events will be cancelled, including free community skates during the holidays. Some recreation programs offered during this time may be rescheduled. Regular programming provided by groups like minor hockey, skate clubs and swim clubs can continue.

Indoor events at RDCK venues, such as scheduled minor hockey or junior hockey games, can only have spectators to 50% seated capacity, with proof of full vaccination required.

At this time, registered RDCK programs, aquatics programs and regular public swimming and skating will proceed as scheduled. Guests will be informed if there are any changes.

Time-based memberships (RDCK Active Passes) will be put on hold until the restrictions are lifted, and memberships may also be refunded on a pro-rated basis to December 23. Pass-holders can request a refund or a hold by calling the local recreation facility during regular operating hours. Please allow 3-4 weeks for refunds to be completed.

Other public health measures remain in effect, including: the requirement for everyone 5 years and older to wear a mask in all indoor public spaces; the requirement for proof of full vaccination for many programs; and the recommendation to keep personal gatherings small.

Previous measures announced on Friday, December 17 are also in effect. To view all current restrictions, visit the COVID-19 information page on the BC government website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>.

If there are any changes to restrictions or any new restrictions announced, information will be shared at [www.rdck.ca/recreation](http://www.rdck.ca/recreation) and on RDCK Facebook pages.

*Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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