

## Changes to Yellow-Orange-Red Alert Levels: Questions and Answers

### **Q1: Why were changes made to the rules in the Red, Orange and Yellow alert levels?**

- A. Because cases of COVID-19 are increasing inside and outside of the Atlantic bubble, there are changes to what is allowed in the color alert levels. These changes are being implemented to keep New Brunswickers safe and our economy strong.

### **Q2: I want to keep my business open in the Orange and Red alert levels. What does *Open with operational plan outlining enhanced measures* mean?**

- A. All businesses are required to have a COVID-19 operational plan in place that outlines how their daily operations will meet public health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (e.g., physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, hand and respiratory hygiene, pre-screening for symptoms). “Enhanced measures” means that your plan outlines the extra steps you need to take to ensure your staff and patrons are safe. For example:
- Actively screening staff;
  - Ensuring staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 do not work;
  - Ensuring staff immediately report onset of any symptoms during a shift to their supervisor/manager;
  - Passively screening of allowed patrons depending on type of business/organization (including volunteers, non-essential service providers, designated support person);
  - Closing waiting rooms/common areas;
  - Wearing a mask in common areas (e.g. elevators, bathrooms, staff rooms);
  - Wearing a mask at staff meetings; and,
  - Enforcing the use of masks for all patrons/visitors.

### **Q3: Are sports allowed in an Orange alert level?**

- A. In an Orange alert level, recreation and sport activities will be limited to practices and/or skills and drills within a single team. Single team is defined as no physical interaction with another team. Regional and intra-provincial competition/tournaments with other teams will not be permitted. Active screening of COVID-19 symptoms is required upon arrival to practice/training.

In an orange phase, change/locker rooms are limited to only those needing the space for pool use or for ice surface use. 2-metres physical distancing and masking are still required. If possible, avoid using change/locker rooms.

### **Q4: What are the screening requirements prior to participating in sports in yellow alert level?**

- A. In a yellow alert level, players and participants must be passively screen at home **and** actively screen with two modified questions upon arrival to practices/games. Modified active

screening questions will ensure that participants have been screened and that no one is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Suggested modified active screening questions include: Were you screened at home prior to coming to today's practice/game? Are you experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19?

**Q5: Do I need to wear a face masks while playing sports?**

- A. In both the Yellow and Orange alert levels, the guidance is to wear face masks whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained. However, face masks may not be practical or tolerable during high-intensity activity. For high-intensity sport and recreation, the guidance is to wear a non-medical mask before and after the activity.

Between the ages of two and five, children may be able to wear a mask if supervised. This will depend on their ability to tolerate it as well as put it on and take it off.

**For more information regarding sports and recreation, visit GNB's Sport and Recreation Branch guidelines [here](#).**

**Q6: In an Orange alert level, why are masks mandatory in outdoor public spaces?**

- A. Masks must be worn in outdoor public spaces because other safety measures – like physical distancing – cannot be guaranteed and masking is an additional layer of protection against COVID-19 transmission. Outdoor public spaces include sidewalks, parks, community gardens, walking trails, dog parks, playgrounds, skate parks, beaches, and campgrounds.

**Q7: In an Orange alert level, why has the household bubble size reduced to a single household?**

- A. In the revised Orange alert level guidance, people must stay within their single-household bubble. A zone is placed in in the Orange alert level because cases of COVID -19 are increasing. By limiting households to a single bubble, we will decrease the number of contacts that people have, which will help to decrease the transmission of COVID-19. The measures are stricter to stop transmission as quickly as possible and safely return to a Yellow alert level.

**Q8: In a Yellow alert level, why are New Brunswickers being asked to limit contacts to close family and friends?**

- A. Due to a rise in the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 inside and outside of the Atlantic bubble, limiting your contacts to a consistent group of close family and friends will help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

**Q9: Why can I have an indoor formal gathering of up to 25 people for weddings, funerals, and similar services (e.g. celebration of life) with an operational plan in place in the Orange alert level, but in the Yellow alert level, I can only have an indoor gathering of up to 20 people?**

- A. Due to a rise in the number of people testing positive for COVID-19, New Brunswickers should keep the number of people they interact with small. In Yellow alert level, indoor informal gatherings of up to 20 close friends and family members are permitted. Indoor informal gatherings typically occur in people's homes, where physical distancing and masking are less likely to occur.

In Orange alert level, indoor formal gatherings are permitted because they occur in establishments that can safely accommodate more people. Establishments that host weddings and funerals, for example, are required to have operational plans in place that ensure public health measures are being followed.

**Q10: In Orange alert level, people must stay within their single-household bubble. A household bubble can be extended to caregivers or immediate family members that require support. Gyms and personal services can remain open, so how can I use these services if I have to stay in my single-household bubble?**

- A. You must stay within your single-household bubble in your home or when dining in restaurants. You may access services that are open in Orange alert level because these establishments are required to have measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as physical distancing, cleaning, and masking.