



August 6th, 2021

- Important site to follow (Gorman Group):
<https://www.gormanbros.com/coronavirus-updates/>
- Important site to follow (Canada):
 - www.canada.ca/covid-19
 - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>
- Important site to follow (United States):
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

To all employees:

Where the Rubber Hits the Road

Beginning July 1st, we learned from the public health authorities that COVID numbers and vaccination rates in our communities allowed us to pull back many of our COVID protection protocols. This was a welcome reward for all of us after the months of inconveniences and constraints we faced, and many of us doing our part by becoming vaccinated against the disease.

The pullback came with the caveat that we may need to reapply some, or all of them, should the numbers tell us we have risk levels that require action. As we’ve all been made aware, the COVID Delta variant is now the dominant strain, and is much more transmittable. Thankfully, the current COVID vaccinations do an excellent job of protection against this variant.

On July 28th, the Public Health Authority declared an outbreak across the Southern Okanagan. No other sub-region in the province has seen such an escalation in COVID case numbers. When examining reasons why, one factor found was that this region has, disappointingly, one of the lowest vaccination rates in the province. **In compliance with the regional outbreak declaration and mask wearing Order, we have reinstated the COVID protection measures at our GBL Westbank division.**

Shortly after this COVID rules update at GBL Westbank, we began to have some employees report to us that they contracted COVID outside of work. **Due to current health authority rules, if an employee is exposed to a person who has COVID and has not been fully vaccinated, they must self – isolate for 10 days even if they do not have any symptoms. If an employee is fully vaccinated, however, they may remain working.** This new set of protocols adds yet another reason for those who are hesitant to choose to get fully vaccinated. Throughout the pandemic we decided to make sure our workplace was the safest place to be by applying the top COVID protective measures. This allowed all of us to continue earning a full pay cheque and support our customers. If you are not vaccinated, or not fully, you are placing yourself and others at risk for not only contracting COVID, but for significant loss of income.

We support the professional guidance that is being regularly given that you get vaccinated at your earliest opportunity. Please reach out to me, your supervisor, or your HR representative(s) if you require more information.

