



Advisory Relative to the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic
British Columbia Square & Round Dance Federation
March 18, 2020

From the Executive
An internal release for distribution within the membership

The recreations of square, round and clog dancing that we enjoy so much will have to be sidelined at this point in time as the planet faces the challenges of the Covid-19 virus.

Ours is a very social recreation that's not compatible with the necessary technique of social distancing in avoidance of spreading the contagious virus.

On Tuesday March 17, under the authority of provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, the B.C. government declared a public health emergency with 186 cases of Covid-19 and 7 deaths. See the details online at this link:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/b-c-declares-public-health-emergency-with-186-cases-of-covid-19-and-7-deaths-1.5500783>

Your B.C. Federation urges that its member associations and clubs immediately halt the operation of regular club sessions and cancel or reschedule any special dances upcoming.

The B.C. Federation's Directors on the Canadian Square & Round Dance Society, Pat Zeeman and Garry Dodds of Victoria, inform us that pretty much all dancing has shut down across Canada until further notice. They add: "our activity will weather this storm and come out on the other side stronger and healthier."

Most clubs in our province have already taken the initiative to close. Thanks to our webmaster, Frank McNeil, a growing list of cancellations around B.C. is displayed on our B.C. Federation's Dance Connection home page at: <https://squaredance.bc.ca/> Please pass on to Frank any additional cancellations or suspensions that aren't on the list. Contact him by e-mail at: fmcneil@shaw.ca

Note that the websites for Region 3 (Okanagan) and Region 9 (Thompson-Shuswap) display notifications of suspended or rescheduled dancing and cancelled events. See:
<https://www.region3.squaredance.bc.ca/> and <https://www.region9.squaredance.bc.ca/>

Our annual B.O.D. meeting planned for Abbotsford on March 28 is being replaced with a video conference at 10 am on that date. An addition to the meeting agenda will be an exploration of the impact that the pandemic is having on our member clubs and associations.

An official announcement on March 16 declared that the annual competition known as the Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival has been cancelled for this year. It was planned for May 1 & 2 in Auburn, Washington.

By e-mail notice on March 16, the 69th National Square Dance Convention (in Spokane, Washington) stated that the event is still scheduled as planned for June 17-20, 2020. The sponsoring National Executive Committee states on their internet home page that "We believe that it is premature for us to be making any decisions for modifying the June 17-20, 2020 Convention at this time." See the web page: <http://www.nsdcnec.com/nec-home>

Organizers of our 21st Canadian National Square & Round Dance Festival tell us that they are monitoring the situation. That event, known as Festival 2020, is coming to Surrey July 29-August 1. Check the web page at: <https://squaredance.bc.ca/2020>

Our governmental health agencies are where to go for guidance during the pandemic. The B.C. Ministry of Health has posted an online "BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool." Learn about symptoms, testing and more at:
<https://covid19.thrive.health/>

See the Government of Canada's web page regarding Covid-19 preparedness with specific sections for individuals and communities, among others (Learn about "social distancing" and proper hygiene under the "Prevention and risks" tab.):
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/being-prepared.html>

Be careful, think safe health practices. We look forward to seeing you on the dance floor again once the situation is resolved and the danger of mass viral infection has passed.

Contact your B.C. Federation at: info@squaredance.bc.ca or the Toll-free Dance INFOLINE: 1-800-335-9433