



ISLAND HEALTH SIMULATION RECOMMENDED PRACTICES IN THE COVID-19 ERA

INTRODUCTION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following recommendations have been prepared to address the safety of facilitators and participants who participate in learning activities in simulation rooms located throughout Island Health sites. This document is based on the Centre for Interprofessional Clinical Simulation Learning (CICSL) *Return to Safe Operations Plan*, which has been approved, by Island Health Occupational Health and Safety [available at <https://bcsimulation.ca/sim-programs/cicsl/resources/>]. These recommendations have been informed by the following:

- BC Provincial Government's Go Forward Strategy
- WorkSafeBC Guidelines for Health Professionals: Protocols for Returning to Operation
- BCCDC and Ministry of Health COVID-19: Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Community-Based Physicians, Nursing Professionals and Midwives in Clinic Settings
- Island Health Pandemic Recovery Plan
- Island Health Occupational Health and Safety Department
- Island Health's Education Guidelines

In addition to these measures, affiliates may also have recommendations and practices that pertain to their facilitators and participants. In such cases, these other practices will also need to be incorporated.

The wellbeing and safety of simulation space users is of utmost importance. If there are questions or concerns about personal health or wellbeing or that of someone else, please contact the CICSL Manager or CICSL Director, Occupational Health and Safety teams, or WorkSafeBC.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

To contribute to the safe use of the users of these shared spaces, we request adherence to the following measures:

- Maintaining a two-metre distance from others remains the primary protective measure, and is encouraged. Where this is not possible, PPE is to be worn. See below.
- Prop door open or open windows to assist with ventilation during a session.
- The user group are responsible for disinfecting any simulators, equipment and/or hard surfaces that are utilized during and or at the end of their session. Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidelines can be found at <https://bcsimulation.ca/sim-programs/cicsl/resources/>.

As of: July 13, 2020

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ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES Continued

- Signage regarding handwashing, cough/sneeze etiquette, and physical distancing should be posted on the walls.
- Where appropriate, to support movement and or distancing. consider placing directional arrows and or spacing reminders on the floor.
- Occupancy limits of the room should be adhered to at all times (see Table 1).

Table 1: Occupancy Limits: Simulation Space – Island Health Sites

Room	Square metres	# of people (5m ² /person)
VGH N304	74	14
CDH	16.1	3
NRGH 2059	22.3	4
NRGH 2060	44.5	8
CV 2631	22.9	4
CR 2608	23.3	4

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

- A register of participants should be kept for each session. If anyone goes home sick or leaves early this should be recorded.
- Close greetings (handshakes/hugs) should be avoided.
- A Booking Form is required for all bookings in VGH N304, and is strongly recommended for all other sites. Booking forms should include the number of participants expected.
- All bookers should review these recommendations and be provided with the *BCSN Protective Measure for Simulation During the Covid-19 Era* resource [available at <https://bcsimulation.ca/sim-programs/cicsl/resources/>]. We encourage sharing this resource with facilitators and participants.

PERSONAL MEASURES

- Those attending a session are encouraged to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.
- The BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool provides an online resource with which to do so <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>
- If someone meets the criteria for testing it is encouraged that they call their local testing collection site [Island Health 1-844-9018-442].

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PERSONAL MEASURES Continued

- The attendee should refrain from coming to the session if any symptoms are present.
- All attendees are encouraged to follow hand hygiene guidelines and wash hands with soap and water or use the hand sanitizer found in the room.
- Attendees are to follow respiratory etiquette guidelines:
 - Cough or sneeze into elbow sleeve or tissue
 - Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene
 - Refrain from touching eyes, nose or mouth
 - Refrain from sharing any food or drink.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- If participants or facilitators feel that they cannot maintain a two-meter distance during a simulation session, they are encouraged to wear PPE.
- Island Health Simulation may be able to support users to obtain PPE. Please contact us for assistance. A minimum of one-week notice is required as these resources are distributed through Island Health processes. As such, availability may be limited.
- User groups who elect to bring their own surgical masks are encouraged to assure that they are medical grade.

For assistance with implementing, these recommendations please contact:

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