

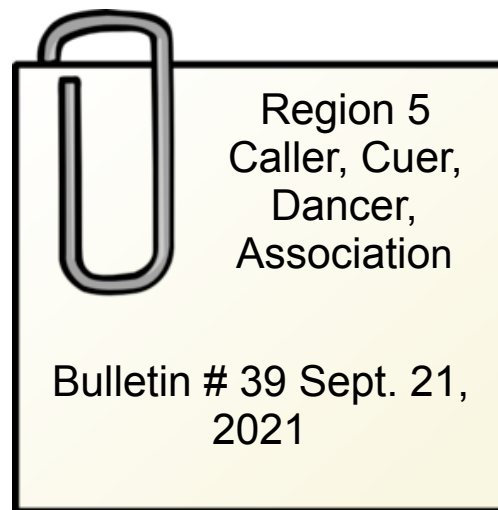
R5CCDA Executive 2021/2022

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Mary Anne Turner, R5CCDA President

Happy **Square, Round and Clog Dance Awareness Week** to you all. I hope you are taking the opportunity to spread the word about the positive attributes of our dance recreation.

Of course, due to the shutdown of our dancing fun by the Covid 19 restrictions, it is difficult to get enthused about Awareness week but some things are happening.

In Victoria a Socially Distanced Round Dance Event was held on the steps of the legislative buildings to commemorate Square, Round and Clog Dance Awareness Week. You can see some videos of this on the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CSRDS.ca>

In Williams Lake, the city has erected sign boards along the highway and they allow community groups to post signs on them. We have to contact city officials and reserve the dates we wish to use. We usually choose 2 weeks in September to create awareness and have posted signs as you enter the town from the north and the south. You can see our sign to the right. I believe it was 4 feet by 4 feet. We have already received several phone calls from people who have seen our sign.



For the Williams Lake club, I posted an awareness notice, at no cost, on various Facebook pages. The notice looked like this.....



It was posted on the following community Facebook pages

*Williams Lake Stay Up To Date. -11.7K members

*Cariboo Conversations (News, Discussion, Events, Road Conditions Etc). 4.2K members

*Williams Lake Area Updates & News Reports. 2.9K members

*Williams Lake Community Talks - 2.5K members

*Williams Lake Activities and Events. - 959 Members

*Positively Williams Lake. 1.3K Members

*Williams Lake Activities & Events. 1.7K Members

I have not heard of other activities around the province yet but feel free to share if you have participated in some awareness activities during this week.

I remind you again, that I have editable posters for you to use on the Region 5 Web page. You can find them by scrolling to the bottom of the page at https://www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca/r5ccda_promotion.html

Now to the big topic.

Restarting Square Dancing

Most of us are quite anxious to start dancing again but we wonder when and how. In Region 2 (the Lower Mainland) they recently held a joint meeting of the Dancers Association and the Caller/Cuers Association to discuss this matter. Their guest speaker was Dr. Blair Wallace.

Blair is a square and round dancer and father of caller/cuer/teacher Heather Reynolds. In his day job, he works closely with the Public Health Office, WorkSafe BC, and every entity that needs a Covid 19 safety plan.

Blair started by reminding us that the BC government got the province into Step 3, with Step 4 expected in early September, but the rise of the Delta variant and people getting sick in large numbers, now puts Step 4 no sooner than January.

Below is a brief summary of the responses that Blair gave during the Region 2 discussion on the topic of Covid 19 as it relates to our dance activity.

What can we do? What should we do?

Can we start dancing—yes. Callers are dance instructors, and with a Covid Safety plan (which is only one sheet of paper) they could start up a dance group and teach lessons to a class. The plan would cover entering the hall without crowding, showing vaccine cards, movement in the hall, movement when leaving. Distancing, capacity, shields, washroom capacity, hand sanitizer.

Getting people to follow the plan is key. Getting a copy of the hall safety plan and knowing and following its rules is part of it. Have the hall rules in hand first, then develop your club safety plan.

Government has recently initiated the vaccine card to help us get past the question of asking someone if they are vaccinated. This would be an issue under the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA).

If someone refuses to show the card, and perhaps behaves unpleasantly, your front desk person and club officers would have to deal with it. The club

has to have a written policy so you can show the policy or give the person a copy and they have to leave.

The actual Public Health Order talking about events says there is to be no dancing. However, our dance lessons are not included under this definition. An event is a seated in-person gathering. And the government has given us their definition in an email that we are a fitness activity, a high intensity fitness activity. So with a Covid Safety Plan, we can start anytime.

Should we?

It is a membership decision. Are your people comfortable coming back? Everybody will be comfortable coming back to their activities at their own pace. You can ask the members. Some say during Step 4, some say never, some say only if everyone is vaccinated.

And could we square dance in masks? We will be required in some public facilities to wear our masks. In some places, the mask has to be worn till you are doing the activity, and then you can take it off. Are your members comfortable with that?

Blair told us about a strong healthy friend who became extremely ill with Covid and lost much weight, strength, and physical abilities. He reminded us that we have to understand the severity of the disease.

Follow up Questions and Answers

1. Are gloves needed?

Not under the PHO order, but should we? It's up to the people. The science tells us the virus doesn't transfer that well on surfaces that dry quickly, like paper. It does transfer on surfaces that don't dry quickly. If you wear gloves, you might get a false sense of security. If you don't wear gloves, you are more likely to wash and sanitize your hands.

2. If somebody shows the vaccine card on the first night, do you write it down?

If you have a PIPA compliance plan, you can record their personal information (to never be stored outside Canada, to never be shared beyond the club). Then the person at the door can record an individual has the valid card, the secretary can receive it and save it. Blair said we should have a PIPA compliance plan anyway, because we store people's personal information.

There you go. How to restart is in the hands of the club members and their executives.

You will need to survey your club members to see how they feel about the prospect of restarting now or somewhere down the line.

Covid Safety Plans will have to be developed in concert with the Safety Plans of the venues in which you dance.

Personal Information Protection compliance plans will have to be developed.

Clubs need to have a written policy so they can show the policy if asked or can give a copy to people when refusing admittance to them for non compliance.

So, if you are thinking of restarting, some club executive meetings will need to be held and I encourage dancers to talk among themselves and share their opinions and ideas. (I saw an ad yesterday for the start up of square and round dancing in Kamloops scheduled for September 30.)

Please stay in touch with me and let me know what you have decided to do. Good luck to all.

Mary Anne Turner - President R5CCDA

★**THOMPSON VALLEY STARS**★
Square & Round Dance Club



YOU CAN LEARN SOCIAL SQUARE DANCING IN 12 WEEKS FOR \$8 PER NIGHT
FREE INTRO TO SOCIAL SQUARE DANCE LESSONS
on Thurs. Sept. 30, 2021 7:30 – 9:00pm
WE MUST ALL BE FULLY VACCINATED
Experienced Dancers Welcome
St. Paul's Cathedral, 360 Nicola St. Kamloops

- Fun & Fitness -
SINGLES AND COUPLES WELCOME
Music, Dancing, Friendship
Great Exercise for Body & Mind!



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