



## City of Victoria COVID-19 Update

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria City Council continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and explore solutions to support residents and businesses through this challenging time. The City is supporting community groups in leading temporary shelter and services provisions in public parks and is also working with those groups to identify indoor shelter sites.

“I want all residents of Victoria to know we are here for you,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “We continue to work on ways the City can support everyone and I’m so impressed by the way people are stepping up to the plate to help out others during this unprecedented event.”

The shelter and service provision sites that are being put into place at Topaz, Beacon Hill and Royal Athletic Parks are temporary stopgap measures. Bylaw Services and the Victoria Fire Department are among those supporting community groups in the planning process to ensure the safety of everyone using these services and the surrounding communities.

“These temporary shelter locations are in place to ensure social distancing is possible,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “The current set-up on Pandora St. does not allow for following Dr. Bonnie Henry’s guidelines.”

Phase 2, which will be underway as soon as possible, will move people to indoor shelters, which BC Housing is working on. BC Housing has 200 beds on the way to Victoria for this purpose.

The City of Victoria’s Business Hub has [information](#) on how small businesses can access supports from government and the community.

All City of Victoria residents are reminded to take the following steps to stay healthy and prevent the spread of infections:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve and not your hands
- Stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others

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### For More Information:

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