



City of Victoria COVID-19 Update

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria City Council continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and look at ways to support residents, businesses and City staff.

The City is starting to see clogging at its sanitary sewage pump systems. While it is important to stay safe and disinfect where possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the public is asked to **not flush any type of wipe** down toilets.

Many products that are advertised as being flushable – are not. Wipes, including disinfecting wipes and wipes marked as "flushable," are to be disposed of in the garbage. The City wants to avoid having to manage backed-up sewer systems during a pandemic, which could contribute to the spread of COVID-19.

"I'd like give a shout out and a massive thank you to the City's Public Works team, who provides us with a range of essential services," said Mayor Lisa Helps.

"Public works crews are out cleaning streets and sidewalks, collecting garbage, maintaining traffic lights, and responding to emergency call-outs. They're busy, and one thing you can do to help is to move your garbage cans out to the front of the road, which makes things easier for them at this time. Our amazing Public Works team is keeping services uninterrupted so that the public can focus on maintaining health and looking after their families."

A reminder that due to the temporary suspension of public hearings at Council Meetings, tomorrow's Council Meeting has been cancelled. Business from the March 26 Council Agenda will move to the April 2 Council Meeting.

Mayor Helps invites the community to join her daily at 7 p.m. by heading out onto their balconies or yards to cheer, play an instrument or bang pots, to demonstrate their support of health care workers and other frontline staff working so hard out there to keep us all safe and healthy and taking care of those who are not.

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

The public is invited to tune into the Mayor's Facebook Live weekday updates at 3:30 p.m. to learn more about the City's response to COVID-19 and to visit: victoria.ca/covid19response.

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For More Information:

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