



## City of Victoria COVID-19 Update

Date: Monday, April 20, 2020

For Immediate Release

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

In light of the horrific tragedy in Nova Scotia, there was no update from the federal government today.

Mayor Lisa Helps began her daily address today with a message to Nova Scotians.

“It’s hard to fathom that our current crisis could still come with additional challenges, let alone one as monstrous as this. From our coast to theirs, and on behalf of all Victorians, I send my deepest condolences to everyone impacted,” said Mayor Lisa Helps.

City Hall’s Canadian flag will be flown at half-mast to mark this tragedy and the lives lost.

Yesterday, B.C.’s Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General gave police and other enforcement officers the ability to issue a \$2,000 violation ticket for price gouging and the reselling of medical supplies and other essential goods during the COVID-19 pandemic. Enacted under the Emergency Program Act, tickets can be issued by a range of agencies, including municipal bylaw officers.

Today, the Province announced a new collaborative framework that will give people living in rural, remote and Indigenous communities in B.C. access to critical health care to meet their unique needs during the pandemic. The framework outlines immediate actions to improve health care services and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I’m grateful the Province is working to prevent price gouging and the reselling of medical supplies and essential goods,” said Mayor Helps. “And in keeping with ongoing work towards reconciliation, I’m thankful that the provincial government has developed a flexible framework that responds to the health care needs of Indigenous Peoples living in rural and remote communities.”

The City of Victoria is creating more usable space for pedestrians along local streets to ensure people can practice physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting Thursday in James Bay, the City will temporarily restrict on-street parking on Simcoe Street, between Government and Oswego Streets, and for half a block of Menzies Street, approaching the Five Corners retail complex. Streets will remain open, with more dedicated space for pedestrians.

“These temporary changes will give pedestrians more space to safely practice physical distancing when out walking and shopping,” said Mayor Helps.

In the coming weeks, more space for pedestrians will be introduced in Quadra Village, Cook Street Village, Fairfield and Victoria West near areas with grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential services. The City will evaluate these temporary zones as the pandemic evolves.

For information on the City's response to COVID-19, the public is invited to tune into the Mayor's Facebook Live weekday updates at 2:30 p.m. on the City of Victoria Facebook page, and to visit [victoria.ca/covid19response](https://victoria.ca/covid19response).

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**For More Information:**

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