



City of Victoria COVID-19 Update

Date: Friday, May 1, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Victoria City Council continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and explore ways to support the community.

Today, the Province launched the portal for a one-time worker benefit to support those who aren't working due to the pandemic. This is a \$1,000 tax-free benefit for those who are eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. Visit gov.bc.ca/workerbenefit to apply.

The Province also announced 300 shelter spaces this week across B.C., including Victoria, for people living in violent or unstable situations, with more spaces to come. Other local resources include support through the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, which is also offering an informational video series during the pandemic. Visit vsac.ca to learn more about their confidential services.

“For some, home is a dangerous place,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “As we're all spending more time at home, it's important for anyone in a violent or unsafe situation to know supports are available in our community.”

No-touch pedestrian signals are now a feature at 25 Victoria intersections. People walking and rolling no longer need to push a button to get the walk signal at selected intersections near high-activity areas like grocery stores, pharmacies, and greenways connecting parks and recreation areas. Signage has been installed to let people know the walk signal will come on automatically.

“Not only does this change help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, it also improves accessibility for those with mobility challenges,” added Mayor Helps.

Saturday garden waste drop-off is in its second week with physical distancing measures in place to protect staff and the public. Residents are expected to unload their own garden waste and staff are directing traffic. Garden waste drop-off is available to residents of Victoria from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday at the Public Works Yard on Garbally Road.

Victoria's Artist in Residence Kathryn Calder will be performing her second live stream concert tonight. The 40-minute solo set on the piano will include some of Kathryn's favourite songs. The live stream will start at 7:30 p.m. on [Kathryn's YouTube channel](#).

“We are really lucky to have Kathryn with the City and sharing her talent with us at this time that we're all home staying safe,” added Mayor Helps.

The Mayor's Facebook Live COVID-19 updates take place on Mondays and Fridays at 2:30 p.m. on the City of Victoria Facebook page. For more information on the City's response to the pandemic, visit: victoria.ca/covid19response.

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For More Information:

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