



## City of Victoria COVID-19 Update

Date: Monday, May 4, 2020

For Immediate Release

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

On Friday, the Province announced new guidance for cities to hold public hearings electronically. Local governments are required to hold public hearings for some housing and building projects before making a decision.

“Many rental and affordable rental buildings are ready, or close to ready for a public hearing, and we are excited to keep things moving,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “This new order is of vital importance as it will enable us to use creative ways to allow people to participate without having to come to City Hall in person.

“Housing projects keep people working and put money into people’s pockets, which in turn supports the small business community. This is a major step forward in keeping the economy moving and looking to recovery,” added Mayor Helps.

The Mayor has asked members of City Council to submit reports on ideas to support economic recovery for discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 14.

“I’d like Council and staff to think about the changes we’ve made and lessons learned from the pandemic, what we need to do going forward to continue high quality of life and well-being for our residents, and to ensure that our businesses can reopen successfully,” said Mayor Helps.

Committee meetings are held every Thursday at 9 a.m. and can be watched live at [victoria.ca](https://victoria.ca) under “Council and Committee Meetings”.

The City is continuing to create more usable space for pedestrians along local streets to ensure people can practise physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting this week in the Hillside-Quadra neighbourhood, the City will be temporarily restricting on-street parking on segments of Fifth Street, between Hillside and Kings Roads next to the Quadra Village Shopping Centre to create more room for pedestrians. Next week, temporary measures will be installed around the Fairfield Shopping Plaza along St. Charles Street.

“These temporary zones target sidewalk pinch-points to provide a safe space for people when they are out getting fresh air or when picking up important items,” added Mayor Helps.

The two new zones will be defined by bollards, signs and paint markings to make them easy to locate. Letters will be delivered to all residents and businesses in the area to make them aware of the temporary measures and to thank them for their cooperation. The City is also working with neighbourhood associations to help notify the community of the temporary zones.

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](https://victoria.ca/covid19response).

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