



Build Back Victoria Backgrounder

The City of Victoria is launching several temporary initiatives to support local businesses during their reopening and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by providing public spaces for private use. Spaces on sidewalks, on streets, in parking spaces, and in plazas and parks will be temporarily made available for businesses to expand their footprint to safely conduct commercial activities.

Physical distancing guidelines can result in a loss of operational space for businesses, including reduced dining, seating and total indoor capacity. By opening up areas of the public realm that are typically off-limits to business activity, and providing supplemental capacity outdoors, we can help businesses adjust to this new reality.

Each of the new Build Back Victoria initiatives that businesses can apply for are listed below:

1. **Flex Space** – business can set up in public spaces during business hours. Materials/furnishings are removed and stored outside of business hours. Eligible public spaces include sidewalks, plazas, squares, or on-street parking spaces, depending on site-specific conditions.
2. **Temporary Patios** – are a more robust version of Flex Space. Temporary patios involve structures/materials that stay in place 24/7. Space adjacent to the business can be converted into a temporary patio including sidewalks, plazas, squares, or on-street parking spaces depending on site-specific conditions.
3. **Curbside Loading** – parking spaces adjacent to the business can be converted to a pick-up / delivery zone
4. **Mobile Vending Zones** – City-designated zones where food trucks/ bike vendors activate daily for up to two weeks at a time
5. **Street Closures** – full or partial street closures to provide space for multiple businesses to expand their footprint and provide expanded space for active travel including wider sidewalks and passage for people on bikes
 - a. **Government Street:** City will be launching a partial closure on Government Street, between Humboldt and Yates
 - b. **Elsewhere:** Businesses can apply to request a full or partial closure near a cluster of businesses/commercial hub
6. **Business in Parks** – suitable business activities permitted in parks

For more information and to apply online as of June 8, visit victoria.ca/bizresources

For More Information:

Bill Eisenhauer – Head of Engagement

City of Victoria

250.858.1061

beisenhauer@victoria.ca