



News Release

For immediate release

Mayor Facio's Message to Residents

May 8, 2020

Dear Residents:

On behalf of Council, we continue to thank you all for working together to bend the curve. All of our combined efforts have made a difference and it is working! We are all learning to live our lives a lot differently and physical distancing will be with us for some time yet.

Premier John Horgan and Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry announced that the Province will carefully begin easing of restrictions and moving to Phase 2 of the Provincial Recovery Strategy as early as next week. This recovery will not be a full opening, but will be gradual, safe, and cautious. The Ministry of Health provides the following Core Guidelines for Personal Care and Social Interactions as we return to the "new normal" while we wait for a vaccine to become available:

- No hand shaking.
- Practice good hygiene.
- Maintain physical distancing when out in the community
- If you have the symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID-19 stay at home until those symptoms have completely disappeared.
- If you are at greater risk (>60, compromised immune system, underlying chronic medical conditions) get informed about risk, assess your own risk tolerance, think through and apply extra precautions and heightened vigilance.
- Maintain regular social contact with extended family or friends in small groups (around 2-6 guests) while maintaining a safe physical distance.

I have noticed that there are certain times during the day such as mornings and evening when there are fewer visitors in the Village. You may find it easier to keep a physical distance during these times if you wish to venture out for daily exercise. We have all done a very good job of self-regulating and I have full confidence that you will continue to take precautions for the safety of yourselves, your family, neighbours, and frontline workers.

Certain businesses are going to be allowed to reopen in the coming weeks under enhanced protocols including:

- Hair salons/ barbers/other personal service establishments
- Restaurants, cafes, pubs –with sufficient distancing measures

- Museums, art galleries, libraries

As promised, we will work in tandem with the Province, following their lead and trusting the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer. Starting on May 15th, the Village will remove the barricades blocking access to Esplanade Avenue so that as businesses reopen visitors and residents alike will have full access to them. We will also open the Boat Launch on May 15th and have it fully operational with an attendant on duty. Please continue to show your support for our local businesses, I'm sure they'll be glad to see so many locals returning to support them.

Beginning June 1st, Council Meetings will be held in the Memorial Hall and open to the public with a limit of no more than 50 people in attendance. This move is to make it possible for Council to meet together in person and to allow for the public to be present while all maintaining a safe physical distance.

The Province will continue to monitor the rate of COVID-19 over the coming weeks after these businesses reopen. If the rate of infection continues to decline, campgrounds may re-open in June. For the time being children's play areas, tennis courts, pickle ball courts, and plaza exercise equipment will remain closed until we receive further direction from the Province that it is safe for both the public and our staff who maintain them. Bylaw Enforcement Officers will be on duty to support Provincial Health Orders and remind visitors about safety precautions. RCMP will also be in the Village on a regular basis.

I hope these weekly newsletters have been helpful in keeping you all up to date through this COVID-19 pandemic. Our thanks and gratitude go out to all the frontline workers, Dr. Henry for her leadership, to all those working under difficult conditions and to our Village staff and crew.

Be calm, be kind, stay safe everyone!

Contact:

Village of Harrison Hot Springs
604-796-2171
info@harrisonhotsprings.ca

Read BC's Restart Plan

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>