

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: July 5, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Greg Newman, Acting Director of Planning and Development Services
SUBJECT: Provincial Restart Plan Step 3 (Restaurants, Cafes, and Pubs)

RECOMMENDATION(S)

THAT Council receive the information presented in this corporate report dated July 5, 2021 titled “Provincial Restart Plan Step 3 (Restaurants, Cafes, and Pubs)”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Province will be entering into Step 3 of its Restart Plan starting on July 1, 2021. The transition into Step 3 brings a return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings, Canada-wide recreational travel, as well as lessened restrictions for businesses, particularly as they relate to restaurants, cafes, pubs and nightclubs. This report highlights some of the key changes recently announced by the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. Taking this information into account Council may wish to re-evaluate the benefit of limiting traffic on Marine Drive as it relates to supporting the continued capacity of restaurants and related venues in the area.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

The following motion was carried during a Regular Council Meeting held on May 31, 2021:

THAT Council direct the closure of One Lane of traffic on Marine Drive not be open ended until September any longer; and that the One Lane closure only remain in effect until the Provincial Health Order again allows for full indoor seating capacity for restaurant dining.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

On July 1, 2021 the Province of British Columbia will be entering Step 3 of its Restart Plan. The transition into Step 3 brings a return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings, Canada-wide recreational travel, participation in sports activities and attendance at recreational facilities, and lessened restrictions for businesses.

For restaurants, bars and pubs, the following key changes have been announced by the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation:

1. Capacity will be determined by the venue;

2. No group limits for indoor and outdoor dining, events will be allowed;
3. Return to normal liquor service hours; and
4. No socializing (movement) between tables

In addition to the points above the Province has also announced that masks will no longer be mandatory in indoor, public spaces, although the use of such masks, particularly for those under the age of 12 and those who have not yet been fully vaccinated, is recommended. Further, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) has advised employers that, with Step 3 of the Restart Plan, they will need to shift away from the use of COVID-19 Safety Plans towards the use of communicable disease plans. These plans will have a broader focus on measures to ensure staff and the public are protected against all communicable diseases that may affect workplaces. Appendix A to this corporate report includes a summary of this component of the transition.

The lifting of restrictions through the start of Step 3 of the Restart Plan will enable many local White Rock businesses to “return to normal” as it relates to preceding capacity limits. Taking this into account, Council may wish to re-evaluate the benefit of limiting traffic on Marine Drive as it relates to supporting the continued capacity of restaurants and related venues in the area. The final step in the Province’s Restart Plan is set to begin on September 7, 2021, subject to thresholds for COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations remaining “low” and province-wide vaccinations for those over 18 years of age reaching 70 percent of the total population. Appendix B illustrates the key elements of each Step in BC’s Restart Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Council has demonstrated a commitment to supporting businesses along Marine Drive. This has included the creation of the Marine Drive Task Force and the advancement of a Marine Drive Waterfront Enhancement Strategy. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged local businesses to remain financially viable in light of provincial restrictions on indoor capacity and the need for controls intended to protect the health and safety of the public. White Rock Council directed that portions of Marine Drive be temporarily reduced to a single lane of vehicular traffic so as to enable businesses in the area to expand their services into the closed portion of the municipal boulevard, thereby realizing customer capacities otherwise limited by provincial restrictions. The

lessening of these restrictions may now warrant a reconsideration of the partial closure of Marine Drive and, in doing so, a return to the normal function of the roadway.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

- Option 1: Council could direct City staff to advance the re-opening of Marine Drive to enable two-way traffic along the waterfront.
- Option 2: Council could receive this corporate report and decide to leave intact the current limitations on two-way traffic along Marine Drive, pending the start of Step 4 of the Province's Restart Plan (i.e., September 7, 2021), enabling businesses to benefit from the extended summer patio season.

CONCLUSION

On July 1, 2021 the Province entered into Step 3 of its Restart Plan. This Step marks the lessening of restrictions on businesses and other aspects of daily life in the Province. Council's more recent decision to limit traffic along Marine Drive, in support of local businesses, may now warrant a rethink in light of the opportunity for these businesses to begin a "return to normal".

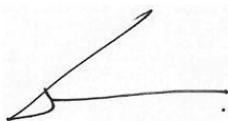
Respectfully submitted,



Greg Newman,
Acting Director, Planning & Development Services

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

This corporate report is provided for information purposes.



Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A – Transition from COVID-19 Safety Plans to Communicable Disease Plans



Provincial Health Officer Statement for Employers on Transitioning from COVID-19 Safety Plans to Communicable Disease Plans

June 17, 2021

British Columbians have worked very hard and sacrificed much to deal with COVID-19. Due to this effort, including very good immunization uptake, the data show us that we are in a good position right now. Hospitalizations, outbreaks, clusters and cases in our community are declining. Immunization is climbing, with over 75% of adults immunized. Vaccine uptake, including second doses continues to be strong. What we need to do now is take the next careful steps forward.

Throughout the pandemic public health has been working closely with WorkSafeBC to protect workers and the public. Given the positive results for workplaces, we are going to build on the lessons learned from implementation of COVID-19 specific safety plans, which have provided important guidance for employers, and move to incorporating the important principles of communicable disease prevention into all workplaces.

To support this transition, I am advising that employers start shifting from COVID-19 Safety Plans to develop communicable disease plans as we move away from the need to focus on COVID-19 alone. This will assist employers and workers to move to step 3 of the BC Restart plan as we head into the summer, and will prepare us well for the fall and winter seasons of respiratory and other communicable diseases to come, including COVID-19.

Moving from a COVID-19 Safety Plan to communicable disease plans means:

- The COVID-19 specific controls of the COVID-19 Safety Plan will no longer be required outside of instances of elevated risk.
- Employers must ensure that fundamental measures of communicable disease prevention are in place at their workplace, including appropriate handwashing and personal hygiene practices, appropriate ventilation, and staying home when sick.
- Employers must also be prepared to implement or maintain additional measures at times when the risk of communicable disease in their region or workplace is elevated, as advised and directed by public health. More information will be provided by WorkSafeBC.

Ministry of Health

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I am also recommending to employers that they maintain some of their current COVID-19 Safety Plan protocols, specifically those that do not negatively impact business operations. This may include barriers already erected in the workplace or directional signage to reduce points of congestion, as examples. This will allow for a transitional period and progression from COVID-19 Safety Plans to communicable disease plans.

To achieve this change, I have requested that WorkSafeBC continue to work with public health and engage with employers and labour to develop guidance that employers can use to replace their COVID-19 Safety Plan when BC takes the next step in its Restart plan in July. This will be achieved through application of basic risk reduction principles as part of communicable disease plans that will reduce the risk of not only COVID-19 transmission at their workplace, but of all communicable diseases that affect workplaces.

More information will be coming from public health and WorkSafeBC soon to support employers and workers to make this important transition.

Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

Appendix B – Key Steps in BC Restart Plan

BC'S RESTART: A PLAN TO BRING US BACK TOGETHER

STEPS	Criteria	PHO Guidance	Personal Gatherings	Organized Gatherings	Travel	Sports & Activities	Businesses	Offices & Workplaces
			Personal Gatherings	Organized Gatherings	Travel	Sports & Activities	Businesses	Offices & Workplaces
1	MAY 25 C: stable H: stable D1: 60%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 10 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 10 people Outdoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people	Recreational travel within your zone Non-essential travel between zones restricted	Low-intensity indoor fitness classes Outdoor local team games and practices for all ages – no spectators	Indoor & outdoor dining – up to 6 people Liquor service – 10PM Existing WorkSafeBC Safety Plans remain in place	Start gradual return to workplaces and offices Existing Safety Plans remain in place
2	JUNE 15 C: declining H: declining D1: 65%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 50 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household Playdates	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people Sector consultations on next steps on indoor and outdoor gatherings	BC recreational travel BC Transit and BC Ferries – increased services as needed	High-intensity indoor fitness classes – reduced capacity Indoor team games for all ages – no spectators Spectators for outdoor sports – up to 50 people	Liquor service – midnight Banquet halls reopen – limited capacity, Safety Plans Sector consultations on next steps on easing of restrictions	Continue return to work Small in-person meetings
3	JULY 1 C: low H: declining D1: 70%	Masks recommended – until fully immunized Increased social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings Sleepovers	Indoors – 50 people or 50% capacity, whichever greater Outdoors – 5,000 or 50% capacity, whichever greater Fairs/festivals – return to normal with Communicable Disease Plans	Canada recreational travel	Sports and exercise facilities – return to normal with Communicable Disease Plans	Dining – no group limits (regular liquor service, no socializing between tables) Casinos – limited capacity Nightclubs – seated at tables Transition to Communicable Disease Plans	Seminars and bigger meetings Transition to Communicable Disease Plans
4	SEPT 7 (Earliest date) C: low H: low D1: 70%+	Masks – personal choice Normal social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Normal social contact	Full capacity for all organized gatherings	Canada recreational travel	Sports and exercise facilities – continue to operate with Communicable Disease Plans	Return to normal with Communicable Disease Plans	Fully re-opened offices and workplaces

C: C-19 case counts H: C-19 hospitalizations D1: minimum % of people 18+ with dose 1