

Town of Gibsons: Back In Business But Not Business As Usual

On May 21st, BC's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, confirmed that although the rules around COVID19 may be changing to enable businesses and schools to provide more services, we will not be returning to the kind of service levels experienced in 2019.

"What I hope we can do is create a level of safety so that we can get our economy going, our schools going, work going — but not to the level that we were in December [before the virus]," -Dr. Bonnie Henry

At the Town of Gibsons, staff have implemented procedures to enable the gradual resumption of services and, as of May 20th, they opened the doors to offer both limited ICBC and municipal services to the public. However, this is not business as usual and if you require service, you are still encouraged to call first to see if you need to visit the office, or if you can receive help by phone or email instead. Here are some of the changes that you will see at the Town Hall:

- The parking lot has been temporarily closed to enable physically distanced line-ups (street parking is available);
- Directional signs for line-ups are painted on the parking lot and information signs are provided at the entrances;
- There are now two separate entrances to Town Hall, one for ICBC and one for Town Hall municipal business;
- Plexiglas shields have been installed along the front service counter; and
- Hours of service have been changed to 9:00am to 4:00pm, and in the case of ICBC, the counter will be closed periodically, including a half hour from 12:30pm to 1pm, to provide an opportunity for staff breaks

Access to both areas of the office is limited, and in some cases prohibited, in accordance with the following direction:

“IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO YOU, PLEASE DO NOT ENTER“

- Respiratory Illness or Difficulty Breathing
- Fever greater than 38 Degrees C or 100.4 Degrees F
- Cough
- Travelled outside Canada within last 14 days
- Been in close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID19 within the last 14 days.



Although it is not mandatory, I also urge residents to wear a non-surgical face mask when visiting public offices or shopping. These masks are worn as a courtesy to others and if we all remember to do this, we reduce the risk of spreading the virus in the community.

As mentioned above, residents are encouraged to check the town website at www.gibsons.ca or, call us at 604-886-2274, before coming to the office to ensure that we are open and that the person you need to see is available.

Preparing for a Second Wave

As we enter this new Phase of COVID-19 response, it is important to remember that the pandemic is not over yet. The Province of BC COVID-19 Emergency Declaration is still in effect and in the words of Dr. Henry, "*We've never had a pandemic in recorded history that has not had a second wave.*"

There are different reports about when a second wave (and even a third wave) may impact us, but the fact that it may happen should be enough of a concern to encourage us all to be better prepared than we were earlier this year. Please take time now to review your emergency plans and home emergency kit as described in my message on April 30th and repeated here:

"What we do next as a community must be done with the knowledge and awareness that this pandemic is not over and that a second and even a third wave is possible. We must not become over-confident and we must continue to comply with the guidance of the PHO, which includes social distancing, frequent hand washing and sanitizing, and meeting only in small groups or on-line, as has become the norm for many of us today."

In addition, it is critical that we all learn from this experience and become better prepared as individuals, families, businesses and as a community to keep safe during any emergency situation. If you do not have an emergency plan – make one now! If you do not have 72 hour emergency kit – make one now!

Good, easy-to-follow Information is available on-line at:

- www.getprepared.ca - "Your Emergency Preparedness Guide"
- www.redcross.ca – [Emergency Plan Template](#)
- [Government of BC - Emergency Preparedness on a Budget](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Town at 604-886.2274 or to consult our website www.gibsons.ca for current information about COVID19.

On Behalf of Council,

Bill Beamish
Mayor of Gibsons



visit [gibsons.ca](http://www.gibsons.ca)