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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
**Date:** 4/16/2020 2:23:09 PM  
**Subject:** Enforcement of physical distancing recommendations

Good morning Mayor and Council,

I am writing to address a number of questions and potential confusion regarding the City's role in enforcing public health recommendations with respect to physical distancing. I know that many of you are hearing concerns from residents about neighbours and others whom they believe are contravening those recommendations. I also know that some residents expect that City staff should be enforcing 2m distancing between people in public.

Unlike some other jurisdictions, there is no legal order in effect in BC that compels individuals to maintain 2m distancing while in public. While they are strongly encouraging people to comply, the provincial health officer and the Minister of Health have explicitly declined to seek enforcement of such a requirement. Further, to date, the province has not authorized local government staff to enforce any provincial order. Our staff are only authorized under provincial orders to monitor compliance, provide education and advise health officials as warranted.

Notwithstanding the above, our property use inspectors are closely monitoring businesses for compliance with health orders and, as warranted, we have taken action under the City bylaws to address circumstances of concern. As we have advised previously, the level of compliance from business owners is excellent and we are not seeing any systemic problem in that regard.

Also, Park Board has deployed rangers and other staff to educate the public on the importance of maintaining appropriate distancing in parks. However, those staff have no authority to issue tickets or take other enforcement action in cases of non-compliance.

Finally, there has been ongoing confusion regarding the role of City staff in relation to Vancouver School Board property. To confirm, City staff have no authority to manage activity occurring on VSB school grounds, nor are we resourced to monitor or enforce VSB field closures, etc. We understand that VSB has been advising members of the public to contact 3-1-1 regarding such issues. We have followed up with them to address that misunderstanding and they have committed to correct their public messaging.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Paul

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*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*