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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
Date: 7/7/2020 9:45:06 AM
Subject: Liquor primary establishments - COVID transmission

Good morning Mayor and Council,

In the context of Council's ongoing consideration of matters pertaining to liquor licensing, I am writing to follow up to recent discussions with VCH Public Health staff regarding the evolution of the COVID pandemic in BC and elsewhere and implications for licensed establishments.

The evidence in BC and other jurisdictions indicates that the virus is now being transmitted by a younger age demographic, as compared to the initial phase of the pandemic that was marked by outbreaks in health care facilities. Bars and clubs have been identified as high risk settings in many jurisdictions, including BC. Apart from the inherent risk for groups of people congregating indoors, public health officials are observing decreased adherence to health precautions by individuals consuming alcohol.

There have been multiple COVID cases traced to bars in Vancouver. In confidence, I can also advise that public health inspectors are seeing non-compliance on the part of several bar operators with COVID safety plans. This is a significant concern for VCH and for us and we expect increased enforcement activity in this regard.

Best,
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.