

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"LaClaire, Lon" <lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca>
"Wittgens, Margaret" <Margaret.Wittgens@vancouver.ca>

Date: 10/23/2020 11:09:22 AM

Subject: FW: flu clinics on city property

Attachments: Bayswater Flu Clinic.msg

Dear Mayor and Council

Some of you have passed along feedback regarding the permitting process for the flu clinic planned for Kitsilano this weekend – thank you for sending it through. We continue to adapt and evolve our processes as we receive new requests to use City property in response to the pandemic.

Staff have been liaising directly with applicant to confirm that the operational requirements for the event are being met. They have also responded to the feedback in the email below with the attached.

Best,
Paul

From: Boyle, Christine
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 4:14 PM
To: Johnston, Sadhu; Mochrie, Paul
Cc: Zaenker, Anita; Monckton, Neil; Council - DL
Subject: FW: flu clinics on city property
Importance: High

Hi Sadhu and Paul,

Following up on questions from Council last week about the flu clinic at South Hill, I wanted to flag the conversation below, and the need for more outdoor space for this half-day clinic in Kits.

Hoping staff can work with the clinic to find a good solution, knowing the high need and demand for flu shots this season. (And the need to test out models for outdoor clinics in advance of a vaccine.)

Thanks!
Christine

Councillor Christine Boyle (she/her)
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From: Colleen Kirkham <colleen.kirkham@familymed.ubc.ca>
Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 3:45 PM

Subject: FW: flu clinics on city property

To the Media Team at the City of Vancouver:

Further to my conversation with Lilian at the Media office, as discussed I am forwarding an email I sent to the CBC outlining my urgent concern about the need for more support from the City of Vancouver for Family Physicians attempting to implement innovative solutions to provide flu vaccine for the community in the middle of a pandemic.

I understand from Mark Greenfield who has been speaking to the City of Vancouver on our behalf that the City has finally relented and agreed to block off the parking spaces for us this week. Thank you for this-that is a good start.

I remain concerned. We are expecting hundreds of patients this weekend and I may have up to 6 physicians and medical students trying to provide vaccines at one time. For each physician working, we also require staff and volunteer support. It is going to be extremely challenging to fit all these practitioners, staff, volunteers and patients under a small 10 x 10 tent which is really all the sidewalk space that we have access to allows. This is a major safety concern as we need room to keep people safely distances from each other. Patients are also required to wait close by for 15 minutes after their vaccines and they need somewhere safe to wait and remain a safe distance from other patients. We will have lots of toddlers, children and seniors. All of this will be taking place close to the traffic on West Broadway and Bayswater.

What we have been requesting for weeks is for the city to block off Bayswater Street from the lane to West Broadway and the sidewalk on the West side of Bayswater in front of our building for Saturday Oct 24 from 8:30-4:30 and Sunday October 25 from 8:30-12:30 . If the city can do this for Greek Days, surely they can do this to play a role in coping with a public health emergency. We do not have a budget to pay for this support as this is an extraordinary circumstance.

This is particularly important as we all need to be exploring innovative ways that we will be able to offer the covid 10 vaccine to the population should one become available.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Colleen Kirkham MD CCFP FCFP
Physician/Owner Bayswater Family Practice
2475 Bayswater Street

From: Colleen Kirkham <colleen.kirkham@familymed.ubc.ca>

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 1:41 PM

To: "eva.uguen-csenge@cbc.ca" <eva.uguen-csenge@cbc.ca>

Subject: flu clinics on city property

Eva

I read with interest your article about my friend and colleagues Rita McCracken and Lee Saxell at South Hill trying to find a way to safely immunize their patient population for influenza. We are struggling with the same issues in Kitsilano. I have a Family Practice at the corner of West Broadway and Bayswater Street and there are 7 family doctors working in our clinic. Traditionally we always offer a series of flu vaccine clinics in our office for our patients on 10-12 Saturdays during the fall. There is, of course, no way we can safely run a high volume vaccine clinic indoors this fall because of the pandemic and, like South Hill, we just don't have capacity during the normal work day to add appointments for flu vaccines as we are already much more busy than normal providing regular care for our patients.

We have been working since the summer trying to come up with an innovative solution that would safely allow us to immunize our patient population. I have been contacting the Division of Family Practice and others for help with this. The Division has approached the City of Vancouver multiple times on our behalf to see if we can block off a section of Bayswater Street this coming Saturday so we would have space to set up a series of tents where doctors could work to administer vaccines. Failing that we have asked to have the sidewalk in front of our office blocked off for the day or at least the 4 parking spots on the street beside the sidewalk blocked off. They have either said no outright or made the administrative and financial hurdles so challenging that there is no way a family doctor could do it, especially with the very tight timelines we are working with.

We have ended up with a plan to use a private area of the sidewalk in front of our building under an awning but it only allows for 1 small tent and it is going to be very challenging to fit several doctors, staff, the medical student volunteers and the patients

under one little tent safely. I am very concerned about safety as we will be vaccinating many small children (as often pharmacies won't vaccinate kids) and many elders. If my patients are lined up on the sidewalk, sharing this with normal Saturday sidewalk traffic right next to a row of parked cars, it is less than ideal.

After going around in circles for weeks trying to get permission for our clinic, we finally settled late last Friday on the idea of the small tent on the sidewalk. I opened up spaces for vaccine appointments with online booking last Friday at midnight and it filled up overnight. The demand is high and I do not know how we can meet it without more support from the City of Vancouver.

Were you able to generate any interest from the City in helping doctors find workable solutions with your article? I feel like we all have a role to play in the massive public health crisis we are facing and the City of Vancouver could have shown much more initiative and support for the flu immunization program this fall. Bonnie Henry has made it clear that she recommends that it is particularly important that people get flu vaccines this fall during a pandemic, but those of us trying to provide this service are meeting unnecessary roadblocks.

I also feel that this flu vaccine season is really a trial run for a future Covid 19 vaccine initiative and again public leaders need to take a role in figuring out how this will be operationalized safely. Trying to find new & innovative ways to immunize this flu season could be an important trial run.

Colleen Kirkham MD CCFP FCFP
Bayswater Family practice.

From: "Teoli, Geoff" <Geoff.Teoli@vancouver.ca>
To: colleen.kirkham@familymed.ubc.ca
CC: "Mark Greenfield"
Date: 10/23/2020 10:49:13 AM
Subject: Bayswater Flu Clinic

Dear Dr. Kirkham

I am writing in response to the letter you send to the City's media team on Oct. 20th regarding your experience with setting up a temporary flu clinic on Baywater St. My branch is responsible for the permitting of short duration special events and is the one that ended up working with your representative Mark Greenfield from the Division of Family Practices on the application to confirm the operational requirements and the City services needed to support it.

I would first like to thank you for the feedback you provided on your experience, it has been very helpful. Secondly, I want to apologize for the frustration you felt during the two weeks it took for us to navigate through the approval of what was a first of its kind request.

The COVID crisis and our response to it is a constantly evolving and require us to sometimes evolve our processes and policies. The concept of a flu clinic being conducted in a public space was new and while the City has embraced the concept, there was a gap in our policies when it came to defining this as an event and determining how to address the City costs associated with it.

Fortunately, through the experience of processing this innovative request we have learned a lot and are already working on making changes to streamline the process and reduce costs for future events of this type. I can assure you that the next time you need to run an event of this type, your experience will be much better.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thanks in advance,
Geoff

Geoff Teoli | Branch Manager, Film & Special Events

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