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Subject: PHO Orders - update

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

As you are likely aware, Dr. Henry announced a new set of orders in her media briefing this afternoon. The full text of the legal orders has not been released and there is typically a few days of lag time for production of those documents. However, our EOC, safety and operations leads have reviewed the announcement and the province's web content as updated this afternoon and we have a general understanding of the new orders and the implications for the City.

The orders will not interrupt the delivery of essential services and there are no requirements that will result in closures of City facilities or programs. The new orders include mandatory use of non-medical masks in public and common indoor spaces, including elevators, break rooms and small offices. Per Council's direction, we have been anticipating the introduction of a mandatory mask order and we will be able to adjust to this new requirement quickly. Dr. Henry has noted that individuals who cannot wear masks are exempt and Public Health officials are discouraging aggressive enforcement of the order.

Of note, the order restricts all gatherings and meetings regardless of size, with a limited number of specific exceptions. City Council meetings are included as an exception that is permissible to continue. Nevertheless, given the increase in community transmission, the rapid growth in COVID cases amongst our staff and Dr. Henry's general advice to minimize direct contacts as much as possible, we recommend re-establishing the restriction on public attendance at Council meetings and a return to virtual-only participation for speakers. The City Clerk's Office will take steps to communicate that update to the public for the meetings next week.

The EOC is monitoring this issue closely and will incorporate additional clarification that we expect will be forthcoming from the province over the coming days. We will also be issuing a communication to staff tomorrow morning confirming the impact in our worksites.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please let me know.

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.