

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Reid, Darrell" <Darrell.Reid@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/2/2020 6:19:15 PM
Subject: FW: is the city making any plans for corona virus and DTES, homeless people, people in shelters, in SROs, Carnegie, Saller, and Gathering Place?

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

Further to Sadhu's message, our Emergency Management team is in close contact with public health officials and Health Emergency Management and Emergency Management BC regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. The Provincial Health Officer has issued general advice to local governments regarding preparation for significant transmission of COVID-19 in the community and our current efforts align with that guidance.

Specifically, our staff have conducted a comprehensive review of the City's pandemic response plan and are updating that plan to reflect the current understanding of COVID-19 and the anticipated impact of community transmission in BC. We are also refining detailed business continuity plans for each department, with a focus on continuation of essential services.

We will continue to defer to public health for direction on appropriate response measures (e.g. service curtailment, social distancing) and will respond to any request from the health sector for extraordinary support. To this point, we have not received any such requests. Other than pre-hospital emergency care provided by VFRS, the City does not have capacity or expertise to deliver health care services to people who may be affected by the virus. That role will continue to be played by the provincial health system.

Specifically with respect to the DTES, there is no question that COVID-19 could well compound the challenges faced by marginalized and vulnerable residents. As above, our foremost objective will be to preserve the continuity of the essential services that the City currently delivers in that neighbourhood and we are focusing on our housing, shelter and community centre operations as priorities. Depending on our capacity, we are also contemplating additional measures we could implement to support that community. To confirm, the City does not have a mechanism to access or provide drugs to people who may have substance use dependencies.

At this time, the clinical guidance to staff to mitigate exposure to COVID-19 reflects the same measures used to avoid seasonal influenza.

We will keep Council apprised as the situation and our planning evolves. If you have any additional questions or concerns at this time, please let me know.

Best,
Paul

From: Johnston, Sadhu
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 8:04 AM
To: Dominato, Lisa; Swanson, Jean
Cc: Councillors - DL
Subject: RE: is the city making any plans for corona virus and DTES, homeless people, people in shelters, in SROs, Carnegie, Saller, and Gathering Place?

Greetings Mayor and Council

We have an extensive working group with VCH and others. We'll send you a summary of that work.
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver
sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
604.873.7627

Pronouns: he, him, his



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

From: Dominato, Lisa
Sent: Saturday, February 29, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Swanson, Jean
Cc: Johnston, Sadhu; Councillors - DL
Subject: Re: is the city making any plans for corona virus and DTES, homeless people, people in shelters, in SROs, Carnegie, Saller, and Gathering Place?

Good morning - I think Jean raises important considerations below and I would be interested in hearing more.

I'm also curious about what conversations we're having with VCH about general preparedness. With spring break approaching, and cruise ship season soon upon us, we're likely to see more travel.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dominato, Councillor
City of Vancouver
M: 604-754-7290

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 28, 2020, at 9:50 PM, Swanson, Jean <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca> wrote:

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I'm thinking that we need some training/protocols for our staff and SRO hotel staff re: what to do if someone on the street, in a shelter, in an SRO or one of the city centres above gets a case of the virus or possible case; also Shelters and SROs would be great breeding grounds for viruses cause of how close people are, sharing bathrooms that aren't necessarily clean, etc etc. Do we have some hotels/motels we could commandeer to put people in if they have to be quarantined? Do we have a way of getting drugs to people who need them if they have to be quarantined so they won't go out of quarantine to avoid being dope sick?? How to get food to them?? I'm sure there are other things I haven't thought of but it would be great to know that health folks are thinking of these and trying to arrange how to deal with it in a pro active way case we have to so we can stop it before it spreads. The health system for all of us will only be as good as the health system for the most in need especially in this situation I think. Thanks.

City Councilor Jean Swanson

phone 604-873-7243 email CLRswanson@vancouver.ca
address 453 W 12 Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
twitter [@jeanswanson_](https://twitter.com/jeanswanson_) facebook www.facebook.com/swanson4council/

I am thankful that I live and work on the territories of the x̱məθ̱ŋ̱əm̱ (Musqueam), Skwx̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and C̱éó̱łw̱əṭ̱ / C̱EṈŌ̱W̱ű̱ (Tseil-Waututh) nations.

Because I am a City Councillor, any email that you send me or that I send you that is about City business from either my work or personal email

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