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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 12/22/2021 5:38:14 PM
Subject: [Update: extreme weather response](#)

Hello Mayor and Council,

Our operations teams are continuing efforts to prepare for the cold weather forecast for the coming weekend. The following information bulletin has been drafted for release tomorrow (December 23) and we are expecting to issue it at appropriately 11:00AM. The bulletin provides an update on our cold weather response.

Of note, we will be activating two additional warming centres at Britannia and West Community Centres (along with Powell Street Getaway and Odd Fellows Lodge as previously confirmed). Work is under way to confirm staffing for these operations from December 27 through to January 2.

VPL will be opening the atrium at Main Branch during the day on December 25 and 26 as a space for people to stay warm and dry. Britannia will also be making the lobby of the pool available for this same purpose from 1pm to 8pm on the 26th. Our three community centres operated by ACCS will be open every day over the holidays. First responders, Rangers and Outreach staff will continue to connect with individuals who are staying outside to check on their welfare and ensure they are aware of the places that they can go to stay warm.

Please note: the location and times of the shelters may change as we go through one final round of checks with partners tomorrow morning and before the bulletin is live.

The City will also be circulating shelter information via social media through the weekend, and would greatly appreciate if you are able to amplify these posts to your networks to help spread the word of locations and hours.

Best,
Paul

**City of Vancouver
Information Bulletin
December 23, 2021**

City opens warming centres as temperatures drop

In response to the extreme cold weather forecasted starting Dec. 24, the City of Vancouver is opening Warming Centres to provide additional capacity for people to come indoors between Dec. 24 to 27, 2021. Warming Centres are activated in addition to Extreme Weather Response Shelters as an additional life-saving response for people sleeping outside when the temperature reaches -5°C or below (or it feels like -5°C or below). They are in addition to other initiatives taken by the City and Province to ensure people in Vancouver who are experiencing homelessness have a place to keep warm during the winter months.

Warming Centres

Warming centres are activated when the temperature reaches -5°C or below (or it feels like -5°C or below). The City encourages anyone who is sleeping outside to visit one of these centres, which are open to all, including people who have pets and carts. Centres will provide hot drinks and snacks. Up to **X [to be finalized]** Warming Centre spaces have been created to bring people inside:

- Powell Street Getaway** (528 Powell St.): Open daily 9 pm to 7 am
- Odd Fellows Lodge** (1443 W 8th Ave.): Open daily 10 pm to 8 am

- ❑ **Britannia Community Centre (Gym D)** (1661 Napier St.): Open Dec. 24 8 pm to 8 am, Dec. 25 8 pm to 8 am, Dec. 26 8 pm to 6:30 am
- ❑ **West End Community Centre** (870 Denman St.): Open Dec. 24-25 11 pm to 9 am, each day

Measures are in place at all Warming Centre locations to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. **Face masks** are required for everyone accessing Warming Centres and will be provided for free if needed. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is **not required** to access Warming Centres.

Health or social services provided to people in need, such as warming centres, are exempt from the Provincial Health Officer Gatherings and Events Order and are not subject to event or capacity limitations as announced on Dec. 21, 2021.

Extreme Weather Response (EWR) Shelters

EWR shelters are funded by BC Housing and are activated when an extreme weather alert is issued for Vancouver (<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/shelters.aspx>), when there is sleet or freezing rain, snow accumulation, and/or temperatures at or below 0°C, or "feels like" 0°C with wind chill. Up to **X [to be finalized]** beds have been created at the following locations to bring people inside:

- ❑ **Directions Youth Services Centre** (1138 Burrard St.): Open 10 pm to 7 am
- ❑ **Tenth Church** (11 10th Ave W at Ontario St): Open 9:30 pm to 9 am
- ❑ **Cascades Church** (3833 Boundary Road, west side of Boundary): Open 9:30 pm to 9 am
- ❑ **Evelyne Saller Centre** (320 Alexander St.): Open 11 pm to 7:30 am (Final intake at 1:00 am)
- ❑ **Langara YMCA** (282 W 49th Ave., South side of 49th): Open 8 pm to 8 am
- ❑ **Bud Osborn EWR** (27 West Hastings St.): Open 7:30 pm to 7:30 am
- ❑ **Powell Street Getaway** (528 Powell St.): Open 9 pm to 7 am

PLEASE NOTE: Alerts for these EWR and Warming Centre spaces are circulated to partner agencies, community centre staff, outreach program staff and a variety of agencies serving individuals experiencing homelessness. Details are posted to our website and social media channels and [also available here](#). **Please check daily for any updates on locations and openings.**

In addition to the extreme weather drop-in spaces above, there are also permanent and temporary shelters in operation. Those looking for shelter space can call 2-1-1 to check availability or find a [full list of shelters online](#).

The City thanks the community organizations who make their facilities available as Warming Centres and EWR Shelters on these coldest nights of the year.

Additional Warm Spaces

As a reminder, community centres, [public libraries](#) and other public buildings are also available during their opening hours as spaces come inside to warm up:

City of Vancouver Community Centres:

- ❑ The Gathering Place (609 Helmcken St.): Open 8 am to 8 pm
- ❑ Carnegie Community Centre (401 Main St.): Open 9 am to 11 pm
- ❑ Evelyne Saller Centre (320 Alexander St.): Open Monday–Friday 9 am to 11 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 AM to 10 PM

Park Board Community Centres:

- ❑ <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/community-and-cultural-centres.aspx>

Vancouver Public Library

- ❑ Central Library Branch Atrium and Washroom (350 W Georgia St.): Open Dec. 24 7 am to 6:30 pm, Dec. 25–26 8 am to 8 pm daily
- ❑ Library Branches: <https://www.vpl.ca/hours-locations>

Please check The City of Vancouver social media accounts for warming centre spaces open beyond Dec. 27, 2021. The City is monitoring the evolving weather forecast closely and will be taking additional measures as needed.

Snow and Ice Response

In preparation for the freezing temperatures and potential snow, City crews are monitoring the weather and a coordinated response plan for snow and ice treatment is underway. Key routes including major roads, bus routes, bridges and the 15 most-used bike routes and pathways are currently being treated with brine ahead of potential snow and ice conditions.

The City's response through the weekend will be guided by the weather. With over 100 vehicles, 8,000 tonnes of guaranteed salt supply, and hundreds of personnel available to deploy as required, crews will remain focused on keeping priority routes clear of snow and ice. If your vehicle is parked on a major route, please plan ahead by moving it to a side street or garage.

[A map of the City's prioritized plan can be viewed here.](#)

Residents also have a critical role to play in our snow and ice response. Following a snow event, all property owners and tenants must clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property or residence the morning after a snowfall, seven days a week.

The City also encourages residents and businesses to lend a hand to those who are unable to shovel their own sidewalks, particularly seniors and people with mobility challenges by [signing up to become a Snow Angel](#).

[More information on the City's winter response is available here.](#)

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.