

The City recognizes the difficulty posed to businesses by the current situation, and is committed to helping them weather the COVID-19 crisis.

We are working closely with other levels of government, the Vancouver Economic Commission, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Union of BC Municipalities and representatives of impacted sectors to develop a package of measures to support the business community during the emergency.

Mayor Stewart has joined with other Metro Vancouver mayors in calling on the provincial government to [expand the existing Property Tax Deferment Program](#) to cover all residents, businesses and non-profits.

By provincial order, the following measures are currently in force to prevent spread of COVID-19 and protect you and your loved ones:

- No gathering of more than 50 people is permitted;
- Individuals must maintain a distance of 2 metres between each other when in the workplace;
- All personal service establishments – such as hair salons, nail salons, spas, massage parlors and other similar businesses – are closed;
- Bars and clubs are closed.

The Provincial Health Officer provided additional guidance to industry on March 25th, instructing employers:

- To reduce in-person meetings and other gatherings, and to hold shop meetings in open spaces or outside;
- To increase the number of handwashing stations and to post signage that identifies their location. Handwashing stations must be added if none currently exist.
- Maintain a list of employees who are currently working in each shop and update this list daily.
- All common areas should be cleaned at the end of each day. Examples include washrooms, shared offices, common tables, desks, light switches and door handles.

By order of Mayor Stewart and Council, all restaurants in Vancouver must close table service, and can only offer takeout and delivery options. Establishments violating this order may be subject to [fines and penalties of up to \\$50,000](#).

People and businesses [violating orders under the State of Emergency Bylaw](#) can face fines of up to \$50,000.

This webpage provides links to some important support and resources to help you and your business. It will be regularly updated.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

A taxable benefit providing \$2,000 a month for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/introduces-canada-emergency-response-benefit-to-help-workers-and-businesses.html>

Expanded EI assistance, and other measures to assist employers and workers.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

Canada Revenue Agency:

Temporary wage subsidy, deferral of business taxes and other measures.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update.html#temporary-wage>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update.html>

Business Development Bank of Canada Special Support Initiative:

A variety of finance measures designed to increase cash flow.

<https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/special-support.aspx?special-initiative=covid19>

Export Development Canada Business Credit Availability Program:

<https://www.edc.ca/en/campaign/coronavirus-covid-19.html>

Western Economic Diversification:

<https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/20051.asp>

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation:

Insured Mortgage Purchase Program

<https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/finance-and-investing/insured-mortgage-purchase-program>

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The Province of B.C. has introduced a variety of measures, including extension of tax filing and payment deadlines, unpaid job-protected leave for sick employees, and a B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers of \$1000 for British Columbians (EI-eligible and non-EI eligible) whose ability to work has been impacted by COVID-19.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

OTHER ASSISTANCE

Canadian Chamber of Commerce Pandemic Preparedness Resource Page:

<http://www.chamber.ca/resources/pandemic-preparedness/>

Vancouver Board of Trade Resource Page:

<https://www.boardoftrade.com/news/50-news/2020/1775-member-update-covid-19-business-resources>

Vancouver Economic Commission Resource Page:

<https://www.vancouvereconomic.com/covid-19-economic-impact/>

Small Business BC Resource Page:

<https://smallbusinessbc.ca/article/resources-for-small-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19/>