

City of Vancouver/ Park Board COVID19 Response- June 12th, 2020

COVID-19 Need to Know

Effective March 17, the City of Vancouver event permitting offices have been operating under the orders and the protective measures the Provincial Health Officer has put into place for large events and gatherings.

Event organizers have been ordered to limit all public gatherings larger than 50 people indefinitely, or until the Province updates the order. This includes indoor and outdoor sporting events, conferences, meetings, concerts, religious gatherings or other similar events. Guidance is changing often and we advise that you check the province's website for the latest information. The Provincial order on mass gathering events can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/reports-publications/covid-19-pho-class-order-mass-gatherings.pdf>

The City and Park Board are taking our response to COVID-19 very seriously, and we are doing everything we can to minimize the risks and impacts on our communities, and will enhance and modify our approach as the situation changes. Please be assured that we are following the advice from VCH, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). We will continue to update the event community of any changes, and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

What kind of event can I host?

In order to protect from community spread of COVID-19, the Province and BC Centre for Disease Control have very specific requirements for events to be able to proceed. These requirements include:

- The proposed event must meet the current public health size limits for gatherings (as of June 2020, the limit is **50 attendees per day, including event staff**)
- The activity must maintain social distancing requirements of 6ft/2m apart
- The event proposal must outline communication and monitoring strategies that support and reinforce public health guidelines
- The proposal must include access control plans that support and reinforce public health guidelines
- There must be a sanitation/food handling plan that is in line with current health guidelines

We encourage event hosts to read through the Provincial Health order at the link above to learn more about mandatory requirements for gatherings.

Can I reschedule my event?

Due to the challenges of daily changes due to COVID19, the City of Vancouver and Park Board Film and Special Event offices are not able to reschedule events at this time. Once there is more clarity on the future of the Province's ban on gatherings, we may be able to look at the rescheduling of some events. We will look at requests on a case-by-case basis, and we cannot guarantee we will be able to facilitate all requests as we already have events scheduled throughout the year.

What is the process to obtain an event permit?

If you have an event proposal that meets the Provincial Health requirements, please submit your event proposal to the appropriate permitting office:

- Park Board event proposals can be sent to the parkevents@vancouver.ca
- Proposals for events on City property or public plazas can be sent to specialevents@vancouver.ca
- Proposals for events on private property can be sent to specialevents.privateproperty@vancouver.ca

Event hosts will be sent a questionnaire to fill out and submit. Upon receipt of the questionnaire, a risk assessment will be completed and event hosts will be advised of whether the event is approved to proceed, or if the event proposal needs to be updated to meet COVID-19 minimum requirements.

Can I host a drive-in or drive-through event?

While permissible, drive-in and drive-through events have specific requirements as per the Provincial Health order. Requirements may change at any time, please reference the [Provincial Order](#) for the most up-to-date information. Requirements include:

Drive-in events

- Drive-in events should permit more than 50 vehicles to be present at the event
- Must not permit patrons to be present except for in a vehicle
- Must inform patrons that they must stay in their vehicles except to use washroom facilities
- Event host must provide washroom facilities with running water, soap and a sanitary means for drying hands
- The event host must not sell food or drink, or permit the sale of food or drink at the event

Drive-through events

- There is a maximum limit of 50 vehicles allowed in a drive-through staging area
- Individuals are to stay in their vehicles
- No pedestrian or cyclist traffic is permissible

Additional Information & Resources:

British Columbia's Response to COVID-19:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support?utm_campaign=20200506_GCPE_AM_COVID_9_NOTIFICATION_BCGOV_BCGOV_EN_BC_NOTIFICATION

Work BC Health & Safety Guidelines

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety>

BC Centre for Disease Control:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/event-planning>