

North Saanich Council COVID-19 Message #9

June 11, 2020

The pace of new information has slowed the last couple of weeks. We do have some news to share with you now, as things are slowly opening up again as part of Phase 2 of BC's Restart Plan.

Council Updates

Our previously scheduled June 10 Community Meeting has been cancelled. We are currently working on an alternative date and format and will share that news when it is available. Please watch our social media channels and the website for updates.

Public Participation at Council meetings remains unchanged; please submit your written comments by 12 noon on the day of the meeting as members of the public are not permitted to be in attendance. Staff are considering what other reliable options might be available for members of the public to participate for events such as Public Hearings.

Staff have also made the necessary changes to enable Council Commissions and the Board of Variance to meet safely. The Climate Change Select Committee met on Tuesday, June 9 and the Community Agricultural Commission met on Wednesday, June 10. The previously scheduled March 19 Board of Variance will take place on Thursday June 18.

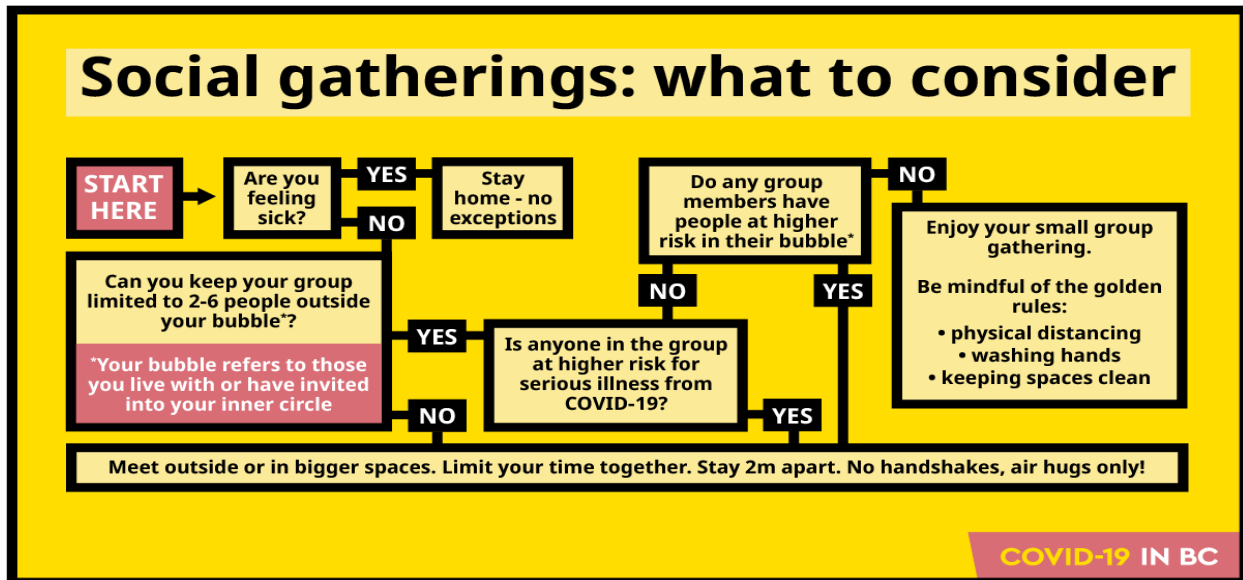
The District's regular tri-annual newsletter should be ready for mid-July distribution. In addition to other topics the newsletter will announce the release of an outdoor burning and green waste facility survey. Council is considering operational changes and is interested in hearing more from residents.

Property tax notices have been mailed and payment is due on July 2. We are strongly encouraging payment through online banking. Cheques can be sent via mail or left in the drop box at the Municipal Hall. Homeowner grants and property tax deferral applications can be made online. Please review the flyer accompanying your tax notice for further information.

The Municipal Hall is open only for the payment of property taxes and utility bills by debit, cash or cheque if you are unable to take advantage of the other options available.

Health and Safety

Please continue to look after your physical and mental well-being during these challenging times. As restrictions are relaxed, look for opportunities to connect with friends and family, while adhering to the public health guidelines. Everyone will approach this transition differently and it is important to be respectful of all the variations that you will observe.



Community

District of North Saanich playgrounds are open again! Please refrain from visiting if anyone in your family has symptoms, ensure hands are clean before and after, and maintain physical distancing -- this might mean waiting turns. Have fun!

Panorama Recreation Centre staff are working diligently to revise programs and services to follow provincial health guidelines. At this time, there is a great line-up of outdoor fitness classes planned, offered on a week by week basis. The weight room is opening this week and will be operating at 30% of normal capacity – reservations are required in advance for all services. The playground at Panorama is also open; while visiting, you are encouraged to follow health and safety guidelines and bring hand sanitizer for before and after use.

The South Island Literacy group has had to cancel this year's Open Air Library. They are considering a self-guided Storywalk as well as family literacy packages as means to support families this summer. Details on these initiatives, along with other great literacy resources, can be found on the [South Island Literacy Facebook page](#).

The Government of Canada's Connecting Families initiative offers families that receive the maximum Child Credit Benefit an opportunity to apply for \$10/month internet access, refurbished computers, and more. For more information go to [Connecting Families](#) or [Computers for Success Canada](#). Telus has also extended their [Internet For Good](#) program, and is working directly with school boards in BC. Check with your child's school to see if they are participating, or email internetforgood@telus.com

Economy and Local Business



The poster for the North Saanich Farm Market Modified Market features a logo at the top left with a sun and stylized hills. The text reads: "NORTH SAANICH FARM MARKET" in green and purple, "MODIFIED MARKET" in large orange letters, "SATURDAYS JUNE 6 - OCT. 10" in black, and "9:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M." in black. Below this, it lists "SEASONAL PRODUCE", "EGGS MEAT", and "PRESERVES FLOWERS CRAFTS". Two images show a carton of eggs and a basket of strawberries. A red text box contains the following information: "Due to the current health emergency there are changes to the farm market to ensure safe access to local food sources: *Physical distancing in effect *Please limit market attendance to one person per household if possible * Sorry, no live music". The venue is listed as "VENUE: ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH 10990 WEST SAANICH RD." with the slogan "Growing Home". At the bottom, it says "FOR MORE INFO: WWW.NORTHTSAANICHFARMMARKET.CA OR KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGE" and "Sponsored by the North Saanich Food for the Future Society".

The North Saanich Farm Market is up and running at their usual location behind St. John's United Church. These community volunteers have gone to a great deal of work to ensure that the Market can continue in a modified format.

Please check their social media accounts and website for the latest information.

An email sent prior to the market lists the vendors and the products that will be available for sale, to assist you in planning your shopping.

As the flow of information slows, so too will our messages. We will continue to update you as the need arises. Thank you for your ongoing effort and commitment to help keep our community safe.

As always, you are welcome to contact any one of us.

Sincerely,

Mayor Geoff Orr and Councillors Heather Gartshore, Jack McClintock, Patricia Pearson, Brett Smyth, Celia Stock and Murray Weisenberger