

Restart Smart Vancouver

The City of Vancouver's program for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on our city. Every resident and every business has struggled. As a large, regional municipality, Vancouver's response to the pandemic has been significant and it continues.

We want to "Restart Smart"

We are taking a careful and phased approach to opening some facilities and restarting some City services, and our priority continues to be everyone's health and safety.

As we look to the future with cautious optimism, we have developed an approach and framework to:

- Define the City's approach to supporting recovery in the wider community

- Provide support for businesses and residents
- Restart our own operations

Our program and timing are aligned with the Government of British Columbia's Restart Plan.

City Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee

City Council has formed the Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee to:

- Seek, share and discuss information regarding pandemic response and recovery planning
- Provide recommendations for Council decisions on the COVID-19 pandemic response and a social, economic and fiscal COVID-19 recovery plan for the City of Vancouver

Learn more about the City's response to COVID-19 at vancouver.ca/covid-19

There are three main areas in the City's overarching plan for continuing to provide services to residents and businesses safely, effectively and efficiently both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.



RECOVERY



RESTART



REBUILD

#RestartSmartVancouver



RECOVERY

The City is committed to supporting Vancouver’s economic and community recovery from the COVID-19 crisis – through direct initiatives, municipal program delivery, policy and regulatory levers, partnerships with other key public agencies, and advocacy to senior governments.

The City’s COVID-19 Economic and Community Recovery Program is focused on these areas of work:

- Supporting our local businesses in recovering from the crisis
- Supporting the recovery of the non-profit and social enterprise agencies that are an important part of our social and cultural landscape
- Supporting community recovery, with a specific focus on those populations that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19

- Advancing the City’s work on development and permit process improvements, to support a strong and efficient local construction and development sector
- Advocating to senior governments for the federal and provincial financial, policy and regulatory support needed to advance Vancouver’s business and community recovery
- Developing a set of capital projects that could be funded by senior government stimulus funds and initiated on a short timeline

Some recovery initiatives arising out of this work have already started, such as repurposing public space to allow for more restaurant and café patios, safer service waiting areas, and queuing space where required. More programs and initiatives will be brought forward over the coming weeks and months.



RESTART

The City has started to implement a phased approach to resuming services in nine key areas of operations:



Considerations for restarting, resuming or adjusting our operations include:

- A safe environment for our staff and the public that includes preventing spread of the virus until a vaccine is widely available
- The requirement to follow Provincial Health Officer and WorkSafe orders
- Community need, including appetite for specific services and programs
- Internal impacts including staffing, cost to deliver, space considerations, support and supplies needed (e.g. enhanced cleaning protocols, personal protective equipment, plexi barriers, signage), etc.
- Addressing continued challenges among vulnerable populations e.g. cleaning, hygiene, housing, food, etc. that were highlighted by the pandemic
- Revenue that can be created to offset the financial challenges caused by the closure of some facilities and programs due to the pandemic
- Our ability to be nimble and adjust our approach as needed, especially if there are further waves of outbreaks of the virus in the coming months



REBUILD

We will fast-track changes to the way we do things internally at the City to deliver services faster and more efficiently as we, and Vancouver residents and businesses, adapt to “the new normal”.

