

COVID-19 Municipal Permit & Inspection Processes

March 20, 2020

City of Victoria

At this time, public access to City Hall is by appointment only and we are continuing to review applications and conduct inspections. Public engagement events and other meetings at City Hall have been cancelled or postponed, including Public Hearings.

Saanich

Saanich is considering building inspections as an essential service which means we will make all efforts to continue service to keep the industry working.

Our Municipal Hall is closed at this time and will accept permit applications electronically or by appointment only.

PERMITS

- We are eliminating the building permit application fee in order to simplify the application process but these fees will be charged when the permit is issued.
- Applications will be accepted by appointment but that means the paperwork must be filled out and delivered to the Hall to drop it off. We are not able to include plan review and advice during the appointment.
- Any questions a builder may have must be asked by email or telephone.
- We will issue permits by appointment only. When a builder gets called for a permit that is ready to issue an appointment can be arranged at that time.
- Builders are asked to pay by cheque if possible as it is the simplest way for us to process payments.
- We ask that as many applications as possible be submitted electronically to limit any documents being handed back and forth.

INSPECTIONS

- Inspections can be booked through the normal process of calling our booking line.
- We will make every effort to accommodate all requests but this may change if staff starts to falter.
- We ask that no one be at the building during any inspection in order to protect all parties.
- We ask that all questions be withheld until after the inspection and these can be answered by telephone or email.
- If anyone on the site has been showing any signs of symptoms we ask that no inspections get booked for these sites.
- We will leave inspection reports on site for the builder's review and we can email them to any interested party if email addresses are provided.
- We do have additional plans if things get worse and these include doing inspections through electronic means but we are not there yet.

Esquimalt

Building Inspections:

We are currently operating in as close to a virtual environment as we can get... so, that means Building Permits can still be obtained, however, where possible, applications are to be sent electronically. If there is an absolute need to meet in person to discuss, as of Monday March, 23, the Township will be closed to the general public and only persons with appointments will be allowed access to the building. To obtain appointments, call 250-414-7100. For general inquiries, people can continue to call the building department as before.

Inspections are still being conducted on a case by case basis, and in all instances, the building inspector is arranging to inspect vacant buildings only at the time. (those buildings that are newly constructed, and for renovations with the occupants out of the building during the inspection). The process for arranging an inspection remains unchanged at this time.

Please understand that this is a fluid situation, and things may change rapidly and without notice.

Development Permit Processing:

We will continue to accept development applications over the counter until Friday, March 20 at 4:30 p.m. however, as much as possible, applications should be submitted digitally. As noted above, starting on Monday morning, there will be no public access to the Municipal Hall. Where it is absolutely necessary to meet with staff in person, arrangements can be made by calling 250 – 414 – 7103.

It is likely that the April 8 meeting of the Design Review Committee will be postponed. A decision has not yet been made with regard to the April 21 meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission. No public hearings will be scheduled at this time.

We will continue to process all development applications received to date.

Sooke:

“In response to the COVID 19 situation, the District of Sooke has modified its practices but is still accepting and processing development and building permit applications at this time. Development applications can be submitted online to planning@sooke.ca or submitted in person via the mail slot at the municipal hall. In either case, payment will still need to be submitted at the municipal hall via the mail slot. Building permit applications follow the same process, however they can be submitted via email to building@sooke.ca. All communications are occurring by telephone or email. If a meeting is required, we will address these on a case-by-case basis to determine the best method for which to hold them. As for building inspections, this process has been modified. We are attempting to, where possible, conduct inspections through the submission of video and photographs. If an onsite inspection is required, they will be conducted in unoccupied construction only, and with only the minimum required personnel in attendance (for both the District and the applicant). At this time, inspections in occupied buildings are suspended but the District will continue to evaluate this moving forward. As the

situation and directives from health and government organizations are changing rapidly, I encourage you to visit the District's COVID-19 webpage for up-to-date information: <https://sooke.ca/our-community/covid-19/> If you have any questions, please direct them to the respective emails mentioned above as these accounts are being monitored during regular business hours. Thank you.”

Central Saanich

Central Saanich reports they have updated their website for Covid 19 changes at <https://www.centrialsaanich.ca/home-property-development/submit-application-new>

North Saanich

We are working through a process that will allow us to receive applications and still protect employees from Covid 19 exposure. We will let you know the process once it is in place.

Oak Bay

View Royal

Colwood

Langford

Metchosin

Highlands

Sidney