

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

April 6, 2020

COVID-19 – FVRD Enforcement Support of Provincial Health Orders

COVID-19 is a global pandemic. The Province of BC has declared a state of emergency to support a province-wide response to outbreak and the Provincial Health Officer has issued a series of [public health orders](#) to reduce the spread of the virus.

On March 25, 2020, the BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General made an [order](#) under the Emergency Program Act requiring local government bylaw officers to assist with the enforcement of public health orders.

What are public health orders?

Public health orders are written and verbal orders made by the BC Provincial Health Officer during times of emergency. As of April 4/20, the following orders have been made respecting COVID-19:

- » [Prohibition of mass gatherings in excess of 50 people](#)
- » [Self-isolation for returning travellers](#)
- » [Closure of bars and night clubs](#)
- » Closure of personal service establishments
- » Limiting restaurants to take-out or delivery services
- » Limiting episodic vending markets to food sales
- » [Requirements for long-term care facilities](#)

Up-to-date information on public health orders can be found [here](#).

Who can enforce public health orders?

Under the Public Health Act, public health orders can be enforced by a Health Officer through inspections, warrants, injunctions, court orders, and fines. Health Officers are designated by the [Fraser Health Authority](#) and include environmental health officers and medical health officers. FVRD Bylaw Officers are not health officers.

How do I report concerns about non-compliance with Health Orders?

Please call 1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319). You can also reach a Health Officer at the Fraser Health Authority at 604 587-3936 or foodsafe@fraserhealth.ca.

What is the role of FVRD Bylaw Officers in enforcing public health orders?

FVRD Bylaw Officers will support the enforcement of public health orders by:

- » monitoring areas of concern
- » providing information and advice to individuals and businesses to support compliance
- » reporting instances of non-compliance to Health Officers

Can FVRD Bylaw Officers shut down businesses or events that violate health orders?

No. FVRD Bylaw Officers do not have authority to shut down business or events violating public health orders. Our role is limited to monitoring, providing information/advice and reporting to Health Officers.

Can FVRD Bylaw Officers issue tickets or fines for violations of health orders?

No. FVRD Bylaw Officers do not have authority issue tickets or fines for violations of public health orders. Our role is limited to monitoring, providing information/advice and reporting to Health Officers.

Can FVRD Bylaw Officers enforce physical distancing?

No. The Provincial Medical Health Officer has strongly advised all persons to practice physical distancing. Physical distancing means limiting close contact with others by keeping at least two meters (six feet) away from one another when outside of ones home. As of April 4, 2020, physical distancing is not the subject of a public health order. FVRD Bylaw Officers have no authority to enforce physical distancing. Our role is limited to monitoring, providing information/advice and reporting to Health Officers.

Can FVRD Bylaw Officers enforce open burning restrictions issued by the BC Ministry of Environment?

No. The BC Ministry of Environment has implemented [open burning restrictions](#) in some areas of the province, including the Fraser Valley, because air pollution from fires is strongly associated with increased risk of viral infection. FVRD Bylaw Officers have no authority to enforce open burning restrictions. Violations of burning restrictions should be reported to the 24 hour provincial Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line at 1-877-952-RAPP or online [here](#).

Where can I get up-to-date information about COVID-19?

The best sources for current information about COVID-19 and the provincial response to reduce its spread are:

- » [Province of BC website](#)
- » [BC Centre for Disease Control website](#)

If you are experiencing symptoms, call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 to talk with a nurse. If you need urgent medical care, call 9-1-1.