

**1. Are City parks and public spaces still open?**

Yes. City parks, trails and public spaces (such as basketball courts, most tennis courts and the skate park) remain open for public use.

Playgrounds, Pickleball courts and areas with mixed courts (Pickleball and tennis) are closed until further notice due to high touch points and difficulty with physical distancing.

**2. Why are several outdoor spaces still open?**

Our top priority is the health and safety of our community. In response to COVID-19, we are taking direction from provincial and federal health authorities.

Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer says it's important to continue getting fresh air and exercise while practicing physical distancing. Therefore, these spaces are open so residents can get exercise and still have room to maintain physical distancing (at least 2m between people).

**3. Is the City monitoring these areas?**

Yes. Bylaw officers are visiting these public areas during regular Bylaw Compliance hours and are talking with members of the public about physical distancing, what it means, and how to contain the spread of COVID-19.

**4. Can Bylaw officers issue fines or detain individuals for not practicing physical distancing?**

No. Bylaw officers are not allowed to issue fines or detain individuals under the *Public Health Act*. They are only allowed to provide information and warnings to individuals, and conduct preliminary investigations where provincial health orders may be contravened. For further action, Bylaw officers must forward information to the Public Health Authority.

**5. What do we need to remember when visiting public spaces?**

We all have a part to play to keep our community safe.

Dr. Henry has been clear that when going outdoors, we should only be with people from our own household. If we come across people from other households, we must stay at least 2m away from them.

We must continue practicing sound hygiene, wash our hands often, and not touch our faces.

**6. Where can I get updates on the City's response to COVID-19?**

We are committed to keeping our community informed. For updates on our response to COVID-19, please visit [www.vernon.ca/covid-19](http://www.vernon.ca/covid-19).