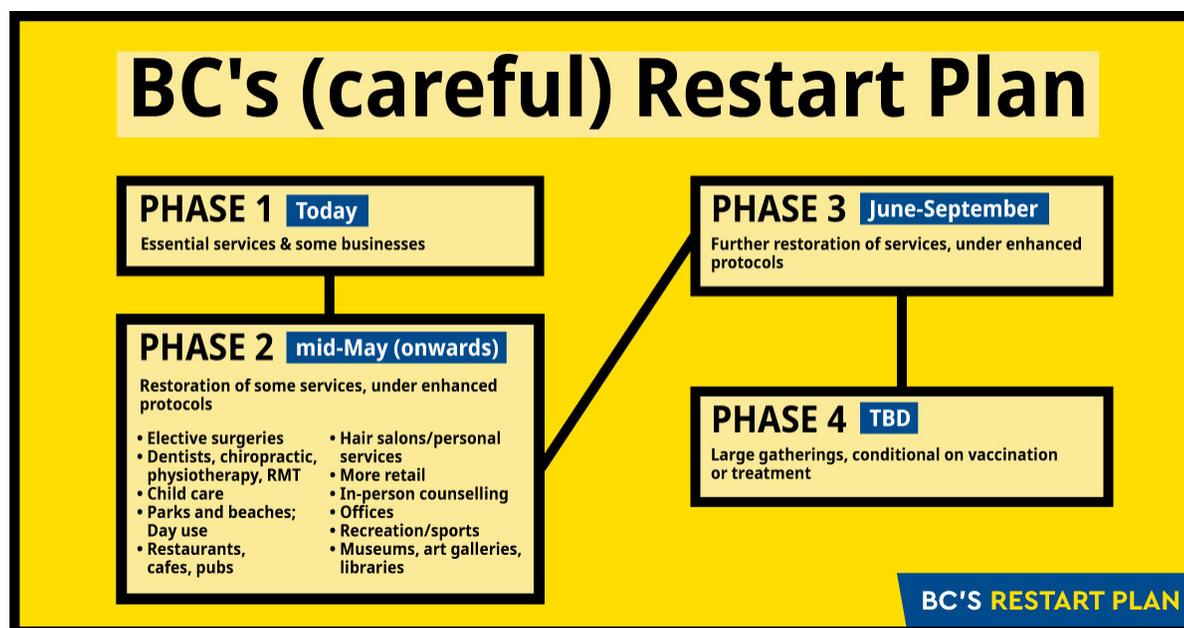


Subject: COVID-19 Updates - May 12, 2020
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:14:42 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Ernie Baatz
To: Ernie Baatz
Attachments: image001.jpg

BC's Careful Restart Plan

The Provincial government announced their [BC Restart Plan](#) last week, with the next phase beginning on May 19th, after the long weekend. It is a very gradual plan where health and safety and controlling the risk of infection are still the primary considerations. Spectrum as an employer and service provider must also consult with WorkSafeBC and CLBC to determine the necessary safety procedures that must be in place as we consider changes to services.



Stay tuned for more information as we get guidance from the Provincial Health Officer, WorkSafe BC and CLBC.

COVID-19 Survey for BC Centre for Disease Control

BC COVID-19 SPEAK: Your story, our future is a population health survey to elicit citizen experience, knowledge and actions during the COVID-19 pandemic. This survey is the first of several activities that will strengthen our pandemic response and our understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 to date (social, economic, mental wellness and community wellness).
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>

May 18 Translink Service Reductions Suspended

May 8, 2020: Translink customers can be assured that they will be able to get back to work as

The Province and TransLink have announced their commitment to ensure transit service is available.

Translink is working to suspend the May 18 service reductions and are reviewing all transit service levels to ensure they are balancing the need to help customers get around the region, with the need to maintain and respect enhanced safety protocols.

Further service and safety-related announcements will be made shortly. For more details on the announcement, [please see the Translink media release](#).

Support For Seniors provided by Government of Canada

The federal government is announcing new measures today to help seniors struggling financially because of COVID-19.

Seniors Minister Deb Schulte said that seniors who qualify for Old Age Security (OAS) will be eligible for a one-time, tax-free payment of \$300, and those eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) will get an extra \$200.

Those eligible for both will receive \$500.

The direct supports will be worth \$2.5 billion and are expected to help 6.7 million older Canadians.

Schulte said seniors are facing extra dispensing fees for prescriptions, added costs for grocery delivery services and taxi fees when they might normally take the bus.

"It's all small amounts, but it adds up," she said.

There is no requirement to apply for this support. People on OAS and GIS will receive this new support automatically.

More information here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/seniors-supports-covid19-1.5565743>

International Nurses Day

Today is International Nurses Day and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale.

Florence was a trailblazer in modern nursing, and I know the bravery and commitment of our nurses today would make her proud. Nightingale's hygiene innovations, including washing your hands, are all too important today.

Thank you to all the nurses in our hospitals and in our community services that help us keep people safe and healthy!

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

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