

District of Ucluelet COVID-19 Community Recovery Plan

August 24th, 2020 Version 6



DISTRICT OF
UCLUELET

Version Tracking

Ver	Date	Changes
1	May 1, 2020	Preliminary Draft.
2	May 4, 2020	Added components including monitoring. Draft.
3	May 6, 2020	Task Force input and BC's Restart Plan. Draft.
4	May 14, 2020	Plan approved by Council including task force. Live document.
5	June 4, 2020	New actions added.
6	August 24, 2020	Review and update by Task Force.

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Table of Contents

1. Background Summary	4
2. COVID Timeline	5
3. Restart BC	6
4. Framework and Steps to Recovery	7
5. Task Force and Stakeholders	9
6. Action Plans	
a. Economic Recovery Actions	10
b. Social Recovery Actions	11
c. Municipal Recovery Actions	12
7. Communications and Monitoring	13

Appendix A: Ucluelet COVID Bylaw Priorities

Background Summary

In January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of a new coronavirus disease in Hubei Province, China to be a public health emergency of international concern. The WHO stated that there is a high risk of the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) spreading to other countries. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

The District of Ucluelet (DoU) Recovery Unit, working under the Planning Section of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has developed the Ucluelet COVID-19 Recovery Plan (The Plan). On March 16, 2020, the District of Ucluelet activated a Level One EOC to support the local response to COVID-19. Level 2 of the EOC was activated on March 23, 2020. The purpose of the EOC is to gather and share information related to COVID-19, to carry out advance planning in the event as the COVID-19 situation escalated locally, and to determine the operational impacts to local government services. The EOC is currently in the recovery phase of the pandemic as the health sector and public officials work to mitigate the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

While emergency recovery actions are included in this Plan, it is considered a more holistic approach to the needed community response. The Plan is subject to change depending on conditions and information. The Plan intends to be regionally focused within the DoU and west coast communities. The latest version of the Plan will be posted on the COVID-19 Updates and Resources page of www.ucluelet.ca.

A timeline for businesses opening in Ucluelet will be guided by the implementation of the BC Restart Plan (www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc). While the District was given bylaw powers of enforcement to support the Provincial mandate during the pandemic, it will be up to the Province to alter its orders and provide protocols for reopening. Based on a range of factors, the May long-weekend has not been scheduled for reopening to visitors and non-essential travel is not recommended at this time.

Priority limiting factor for the coast will continue to be the capacity of our health system.

Provincial Restart BC Plan

A timeline for businesses opening in Ucluelet depends significantly on the guidance the District receives from the Province and local health authorities. On May 6th, 2020, the Province released the Provincial Restart BC Plan, which provided an important update on proposed timelines for reopening the Provincial economy. The details of this announcement can be found at www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc and the phased approach is provided below in Figure 1.

Figure 1: BC’s Restart Plan

PHASE 2 (MID MAY ONWARDS)
UNDER ENHANCED PROTOCOLS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restoration of health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Re-scheduling elective surgery » Medically related services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ dentistry, physiotherapy, registered massage therapy, chiropractors ▸ physical therapy, speech therapy, and similar services
➤ Retail sector
➤ Hair salons/ barbers/other personal service establishments
➤ In-person counselling
➤ Restaurants, cafes, pubs – with sufficient distancing measures
➤ Museums, art galleries, libraries
➤ Office-based worksites
➤ Recreation/sports
➤ Parks, beaches and outdoor spaces
➤ Child care
PHASE 3 (JUNE-SEPTEMBER, IF TRANSMISSION RATE REMAINS LOW OR IN DECLINE)
UNDER ENHANCED PROTOCOLS
➤ Hotels and resorts (June)
➤ Parks – broader reopening, including some overnight camping (June)
➤ Film industry – beginning with domestic productions (June/July)
➤ Select entertainment – movies and symphony, but not large concerts (July)
➤ Post-secondary education – with mix of online and in-class (September)
➤ K-12 education – partial return in June, full return in September
PHASE 4 (TBD)
CONDITIONAL ON AT LEAST ONE OF: WIDE VACCINATION; “COMMUNITY” IMMUNITY; BROAD SUCCESSFUL TREATMENTS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Activities requiring large gatherings, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » conventions » live audience professional sports » concerts
➤ International tourism

The timing of a safe restart of night clubs, casinos and bars is a more complicated consideration. As with other sectors, industry associations will be expected to develop safe operations plans, for review, that are in keeping with Public Health and Safety Guidelines, as well as WorkSafeBC.

COVID Timeline

Key Factors Determining Reopening Timeline

- Provincial Restart BC Plan – www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc
- Provincial State of Emergency extended to May 12, 2020.
- No new direction from Island Health with potential update May 20, 2020.
- Non-essential travel is not recommended by the Province at this time.
- Pacific Rim National Park is currently closed until the end of May.
- Local accommodators are indicating that a May long weekend opening not realistic.
- No timelines provided for schools to reopen.
- Coastal communities have committed to moving forward together for reopening.

Table 1: Historical Timeline

March 9	District issues first COVID notice to public.
March 11	World Health Organization declares global pandemic.
March 13-16	Level 1 EOC Activated District Municipal Office and facilities are closed to the public.
March 17	Provincial Public Health Emergency declared.
March 18	Provincial State of Emergency declared.
March 19	District issues joint statement to request visitors delay visit.
March 21	District sees high level of business compliance with recommendations.
March 23	EOC activated to Level 2.
March 27	Province extends powers of municipal bylaw officers.
April 14	Ucluelet Council adopts policy for COVID-19 bylaw enforcement priorities.
June 24	Official start of Phase 3 of BC's Restart Plan.
July 27	Upon recommendation from Task Force, District actively encourages the use of facemasks with press release.

Framework and Steps to Recovery

Goals of the Recovery Plan:

- Community recovery through actions to limit losses, reduce suffering, and restore the psycho-social and economic viability of the community.
- Ensure internal and external communication lines are maintained to optimize recovery.
- The Recovery Plan is guided by core principles of accountability and transparency and will focus actions through economic, social, and municipal lenses.



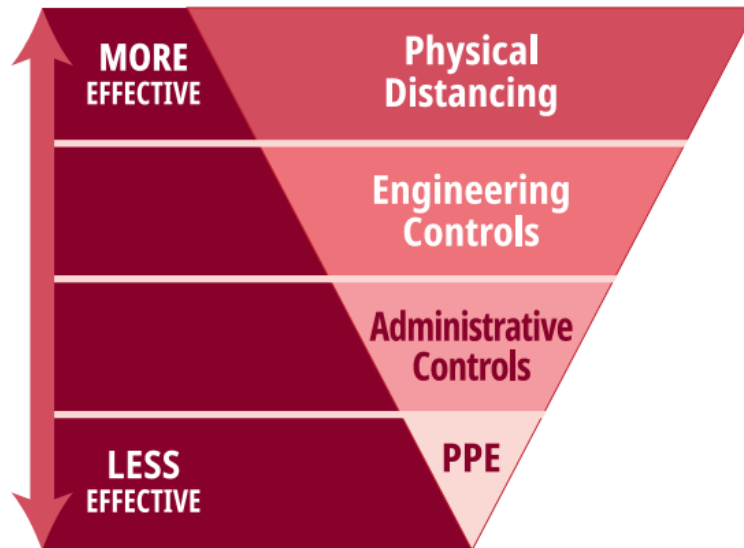
Guiding Principles:

The Province has provided important principles to guide our “new normal”. These principles are the foundation of how we need to move forward with our Ucluelet and Provincial plans. They include:

- staying informed, being prepared and following public health advice;
- practising good hygiene – hand hygiene, avoid touching your face and respiratory etiquette;
- staying at home and away from others if you are feeling ill – not ever going to school or work;
- maintaining physical distancing outside the household, e.g., no handshakes or hugs, and keeping your number of contacts low and keeping a safe distance;
- making necessary contacts safer with appropriate controls, e.g., using plexiglass barriers or redesigning spaces;
- increasing cleaning of frequently touched surfaces at home and work;
- considering the use of non-medical masks in situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained, such as on transit or while shopping; and
- continuing to reduce personal non-essential travel.

The BC Ministry of Health also has provided the following framework in their COVID-19 Going Forward presentation from May 4th, 2020.

Figure 2: Hierarchy of Controls for COVID-19 (Koehler)



Guidance Documents

1. BC Community Disaster Recovery Guide (Sept 2005)
2. Province of BC - COVID-19: Going Forward Presentation May 4th, 2020
https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Covid-19_May4_PPP.pdf
3. Provincial Restart BC Plan – www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc
4. BC Recovery Guide for Local Authorities and First Nations (August 2019)

Task Force and Stakeholders

Recovery Task Force

- District of Ucluelet EOC – District’s Senior Management Team
- Ucluelet Medical Centre – Dr. Carrie Marshall
- Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce – Lara Kemps (Ucluelet Councillor and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director)
- Tourism Ucluelet – Denise Stys-Norman (Executive Director)
- Westcoast Community Resources Society (WCRS) – Margaret Morrison (Executive Director)

Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Task Force Communication Leads
First Nations	District of Ucluelet EOC
Parks Canada	District of Ucluelet EOC
District of Tofino	District of Ucluelet EOC
ACRD	District of Ucluelet EOC
ACHN	WCRS
RCMP	District of Ucluelet EOC
Tourism Ucluelet Board	Tourism Ucluelet
Tourism Tofino	Tourism Ucluelet
Tourism Vancouver Island	Tourism Ucluelet
Local Businesses and Workers	Chamber of Commerce
Mental Health and Substance Abuse	WCRS
Public Health Nurse	WCRS
Ucluelet Co-Op Grocery	Chamber of Commerce
School District 70	District of Ucluelet EOC
Ucluelet Food Bank	Chamber of Commerce
Province of BC/MLA/MP	District of Ucluelet EOC
District of Ucluelet Council	District of Ucluelet EOC
Chamber of Commerce Board	Chamber of Commerce
Short-Term Rental Owners	District of Ucluelet EOC
Seaview Seniors Housing Society	WCRS
Clayoquot Biosphere Trust	WCRS

Economic Recovery Actions

Economic Goal: Support local businesses in the short and long term.

Actions	Lead
1. Support development of mountain biking in Ucluelet area, working through the Barkley Community Forest Board.	District of Ucluelet
2. Provide clear and consistent message for local rules, protocols, and expectations for all businesses and residents.	District of Ucluelet EOC
3. Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce provide direct support to local businesses including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Act as a clearing house of Provincial and Federal support programs for business groups. b. Assist businesses with filling out forms, navigating funding streams, and applying for financial assistance. c. Advocate for businesses that do not meet criteria for existing Federal and/or Provincial support programs. d. Develop 'open for business' listing. e. Enhance and promote our District, Chamber and TU social media and communication pages to gain a larger audience. f. www.theconsultinghive.ca (regional collaboration with Ucluelet, Tofino, Port Alberni, Community Futures, NEDC, Venture Connect & Scale Collaborative). 	Chamber of Commerce
4. Advocate to Province for clear sector protocols (accommodations, STR, restaurants) to establish a clear future transition for businesses to operate.	Tourism Ucluelet
5. Ensure COVID-19 education/monitoring/enforcement by bylaw services are clear and consistently applied for all businesses and residents.	District of Ucluelet EOC - via Bylaw
6. Liaise with the COVID-19 Active Fishermen's Committee.	Chamber of Commerce
7. Build consistent, positive message for the future for Tourism Ucluelet that will be shared with tourism and community partners.	Tourism Ucluelet + District of Ucluelet EOC
8. Participate in Regional Economic Recovery Working Group through ACRD.	Chamber of Commerce
9. Develop long-term plans through funded Tourism Master Plan work. (Budgeted for 2021)	District of Ucluelet
10. Support implementation of the Tourism Ucluelet Recovery Plan.	Tourism Ucluelet

11. Prepare list of shovel ready capital projects for Federal funding opportunities to support local contractors and enhance visitor experience.	District of Ucluelet
12. Maximize social procurement opportunities through updated District of Ucluelet purchasing policy.	District of Ucluelet EOC
13. Advocate to BC Housing for funding to house essential workers.	Chamber of Commerce District of Ucluelet
14. Maintain list of accommodation for essential workers.	Chamber of Commerce
15. Support businesses looking to shift business model and support those looking to sell or lease their business.	Chamber of Commerce
16. Encourage residents to “Buy Local” when they can to support local businesses by developing a new campaign.	Chamber of Commerce
17. Support short-term rentals through reopening transition including options and support for transition to long-term rentals.	Chamber of Commerce

Social Recovery Actions

Social Goal: Support residents and neighbouring community’s health and well-being.

Actions	Lead
1. Maintain communication lines with Island Health and west coast health professionals regarding the status of COVID-19 on the coast and ensure support resources are maintained on the DoU website.	Ucluelet Medical Centre/District of Ucluelet
2. Ensure seniors population needs are addressed to ensure those most vulnerable to COVID-19 are cared for.	Ucluelet Medical Centre
3. Support the Food Bank where possible to ensure community food security for Ucluelet and neighbouring communities.	WCRS
4. Continue to work with RCMP to monitor status of vulnerable populations in our region.	WCRS
5. Advocate for support for regional social issues including housing and food access.	WCRS
6. Continue regular communication with neighbouring First Nations and Tofino to ensure joint social programs are in place.	District of Ucluelet EOC
7. Participate in Regional Health Recovery Working Group through ACRD.	District of Ucluelet EOC
8. Create online recreation programming.	District of Ucluelet - Rec
9. Prepare District facilities for conditional reopening.	District of Ucluelet- Rec
10. Create Recreation Evaluation Toolkit for Facilities and Programs for staged re-opening.	District of Ucluelet - Rec
11. Ensure and support access to programs through District communications and website.	District of Ucluelet - Rec

Municipal Recovery Actions

Municipal Goal: Support Ucluelet businesses and residents in the short and long term

Actions	Lead
1. Reduce tax burden while ensuring community services are maintained.	District of Ucluelet - Finance
2. Advocate to the Province for flexible tax payment/deferment options.	District of Ucluelet - Finance
3. Grant writing support for the District and community to apply for funding.	District of Ucluelet – Corporate
4. Ensure bylaw resources are adequate for transition to increased tourism activity as COVID education and enforcement will continue throughout 2020. This includes addition of community ambassadors to support COVID education.	District of Ucluelet – EOC/Bylaw
5. Explore harbour reserve fund options for supporting commercial harbour businesses.	District of Ucluelet - Finance
6. Share this plan with Ucluelet MLA and MP representatives to ensure priorities are shared and funding stimulus opportunities are explored.	District of Ucluelet – EOC
7. Work with community partners when purchasing PPE to leverage purchasing power. This includes working with hotels and other businesses.	District of Ucluelet – EOC
8. Enter into Mutual Aid Agreements with neighbouring communities where needed (i.e. water).	District of Ucluelet – Public Works
9. Ensure that District Staff are practicing safety measures as it relates to COVID and are appropriately supplied and geared with PPE as well as being provided with communications to the general public regarding appropriate messaging.	District of Ucluelet
10. Support COVID Education and Awareness in the community by establishing COVID-19 Community Monitors.	District of Ucluelet – EOC

Communications and Monitoring

During the development phase of the Plan, requests for feedback and contributions has been made to primary stakeholders to move the preliminary draft forward. The draft Plan will be taken to Ucluelet Council on Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 for endorsement. A request for feedback from all stakeholders will be made on a regular basis. New information will be captured in weekly task force meetings and weekly check-ins with West Coast partners.

Inputs	Task Force	Outputs
Stakeholders/Residents	District of Ucluelet (Lead via EOC)	Council Meeting Updates
Bi-Weekly Task Force Meetings	Tourism Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce WCRS Ucluelet Medical Centre	Weekly Regional/ Public Updates

This Recovery Plan will be a focal point for communication in Ucluelet as the community recovers through the COVID-19 crisis. The task force will provide regular updates to the Ucluelet Council and its partners. This plan will be posted on the District of Ucluelet’s COVID-19 Resources and Updates website and weekly updates will be provided to the community via UkeeMail and social media. Feedback will be requested from the public throughout the evolution of this living document.

The Recovery Plan is guided by core principles of accountability and transparency. The public trust in the recovery process depends upon the ability of the Task Forces to implement strategies outlined in the Plan and the success in communicating activities to the public.

Conclusion

The Ucluelet COVID-19 Recovery Plan is intended to promote community resiliency and guide the health and economic recovery of the community from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Plan will also consider the organizational continuity of the District of Ucluelet and will facilitate an opportunity to evaluate the EOC response to the pandemic (lessons learned) and recommend improvements required to better prepare the community for a similar event in the future.