

## **ESSENTIAL SERVICES:**

Essential services are defined as those daily services essential to preserving life, health, public safety and basic societal functioning. The following are the essential services that are provided within our local:

### **Critical Infrastructure Service Providers**

- Operational staff at wastewater treatment facilities
- Workers repairing water and wastewater conveyances and performing required sampling or monitoring
- Operational staff for water distribution and testing
- Operational staff at wastewater collection facilities
- Operational staff and technical support for SCADA Control systems
- Workers who support the operation, inspection and maintenance of essential public works facilities and operations

### **Non-Health Essential Service Providers**

- **All government (local, regional, provincial) functions or services**
- Accounting
- Custodial/janitorial workers
- Cleaning services
- Electricians
- Engineers
- Mechanics
- Other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and daily essential operation of residences and commercial buildings
- Parks and greenspace for public health and sheltering (homeless)
- Payroll
- Public washrooms and hygiene facilities (toilets, hand wash stations, showers) for unsheltered persons

### **Sanitation**

- Cleaning services necessary to provide and maintain disinfection
- Waste (garbage and organics) and recycling collection, processing and disposal

### **Vulnerable Population Service Providers**

- Care for seniors, adults, children, or individuals with disabilities
- Residential care for individuals with mental health and substance use challenges, including licensed and registered treatment and recovery facilities
- Government and non-profit service delivery staff who provide access to income supports for people in need of food and shelter
- Residential and care facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, children, and people with disabilities

### **Workers maintaining IT and communications infrastructure for**

- Governments facilities
- Emergency response and command agencies
- Energy and utilities
- Employees working from home

## **PUBLIC SPACES:**

The list of non-health essential service providers in BC during the COVID-19 pandemic includes:

- Public washrooms and hygiene facilities (toilets, handwash stations, showers) for unsheltered persons; and
- Parks and green space for public health and sheltering (for people experiencing homelessness).  
(Source: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0020-000568>).

Island Health expects that public washrooms in parks and public spaces remain open. This supports those who need these facilities most in our communities. In addition, alleviates other health hazards related to the discharge of human excreta to the ground, and is essential for protecting public health.

## **Employee Safety**

The Union has heard the concern from members regarding safety. “Currently, there is no evidence about the survival of the COVID-19 virus in sewage” ([WHO, 2020](#)). The following is the advice to all members cleaning public spaces:

- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE), e.g. gloves, and change in between facility cleanings or as needed.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If a sink is not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) to clean your hands as long as they are not visibly soiled. If they are visibly soiled, use a wipe and then ABHR to effectively clean them.
- Do not touch your face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Comply with all [WorkSafe](#) requirements.

## **Cleaning and disinfection for public settings**

To minimize the risk of spreading the virus, it is recommended prioritizing enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of common areas where people gather and high touchpoints (i.e., common amenity spaces, door handles, countertops, and bathroom surfaces) a minimum of two times a day or when visibly contaminated. Cleaning floors, walls, and windows should be secondary at this time.

## **Amenities needed**

- Hand sinks must be equipped with soap and paper towel or, alternatively, an ABHR can be provided.
- Post approved signage, e.g. on hand hygiene (<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/signage-posters>)