

Spring News 2020



Block Watch



Saanich Police Block Watch Office
250-475-4365 • blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca



COVID -19 — Protective Measures at the Police Department

*TAKEN FROM THE MEDIA RELEASE SENT OUT BY THE
SAANICH POLICE on March 20, 2020:*

The Saanich Police recognizes the challenging times in our community. The safety of our residents and personnel remain the top priority of the Saanich Police.

To ensure the safety of the public and our personnel, our front counter service will be unavailable until such time the BC Provincial Health Officer provides direction that would deem this service safe again.

As part of our efforts to ensure that we are able to maintain operational readiness during the COVID-19 pandemic, **we are asking members of the public to utilize the non-emergency line. 250 475 4321**

COVID-19

To Report an Incident:

- To report an emergency or a crime in progress, *always call 911.*
- Our non-emergency line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. *Many calls can be dealt with by phone.*
- Should you require and Officer for service, *please advise the dispatcher if you have flu-like symptoms, have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19*

For all the latest updates, please check out the Saanich Police Social Media Contacts: Twitter, Facebook &

***Instagram:
@SaanichPolice***



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COVID-19: Staying Safe while Supporting Your Neighbours



S O C I A L D I S T A N C I N G

If there is one common thread among volunteers, it's our deep desire to help and support others, be they family members, members of our community, or fellow humans across the globe. We understand that for most (if not

all) of us, the novel coronavirus feels uncertain and scary. But in spite of those feelings, many of us have still been moved to ask, "How can I help?" Here are a variety of suggestions for ways to support others. After all, socially distanced as we may be, we're all in this together.

1. Check on your neighbours

Call or text your neighbors (especially elderly neighbours) to make sure they're doing okay. Ask if there is anything that they need (be it a box of tissues or a cup of sugar). If you have what they're looking for, offer to leave it outside their front door so that they can pick it up without coming in direct contact with you. It sounds extreme, but this is actually a great (and safe) way to make sure that your more vulnerable neighbours have what they need.

If you feel comfortable going out, consider knocking on the door of any elderly neighbours and chatting through the screen or storm door just to offer a bit of comfort and reassurance.

2. Explore ways to connect and volunteer virtually

There are plenty of volunteer and action opportunities, and as the landscape of volunteering evolves in the wake of COVID-19, you're likely to see a lot more virtual opportunities appear.

As we speak, not-for-profits around the world are working to problem solve and develop innovative solutions so they can continue to run their programs even as we have to limit large gatherings and in-person service delivery. Check online to see what new opportunities for virtual volunteering arise over the coming weeks and months.

You can also expect to see a lot of new platforms, tools, and apps for connecting with people and getting the job done virtually. One such example that predates COVID-19 is the Be My Eyes app. This amazing app pairs the blind and visually impaired with volunteers via a video call in order to assist with everyday tasks (think reading a recipe on the back of a box or selecting a particular article of clothing from the closet). Now more than ever, there is a need to maintain person-to-person connection in any (safe) way that we can. So there are alternatives to being physically present to volunteer.

3. Waste not, want not

For many of us, the mad dash to the grocery store happened about a week ago. And if we're lucky, our pantries, freezers, and fridges are stocked with the necessities (and maybe even a few treats). But as grocery store shelves continue to empty, we can't keep counting on restocking as usual, and so it's very important that we use (cook it, eat it, share it, store it) what we have.

A few simple ways to cut down on food waste include storing food in the proper place (and at the proper temperature), waiting to wash produce until you're ready to use it (to avoid mold), freezing anything that you don't expect to use in the near future (if freezing is possible), making a stock, composting, and eating your leftovers!

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COVID-19: Staying Safe while Supporting Your Neighbours

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4. Give blood

Canadian Blood Services is concerned by a recent spike in appointment cancellations in several cities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the organization responsible for the national blood system outside Quebec, we are determined to keep our promise to help every patient, match every need and serve every Canadian. To do that we require the ongoing generosity and commitment of donors. We urge all healthy eligible donors to book and keep appointments. The need is constant for blood, stem cells, plasma and organ and tissue donors. Canadian Blood Services adheres to the latest guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada including all recommendations for public gatherings during COVID-19. Should the agency's recommendations change we will act immediately to keep donors safe.

5. Make a donation

While many of us are busy hunkering down and pouring over the latest CDC recommendations, millions of not-for-profit professionals all over the world are working to continue to deliver services and implement programs, uninterrupted. And that's going to be really, really difficult. And so if you have the resources, consider making a donation to your favorite organization. Whether they're on the front lines of the fight to quell the coronavirus, or their mission is entirely unrelated to the current crisis, your dollars will make a big difference.

6. Be a leader

If you're in a position of professional authority and you have the decision-making power to allow your team to work from home (and programmatically, your organization can operate virtually), make it happen. Even if you don't consider your employees to be particularly high risk, making the call to work from home sends an important message to your team and to the sector by letting others know that you and your team are ready to do your civic duty by staying off of public transportation, out of hospitals, and just generally out of the way.

7. Take care of yourself!

As they say, secure your own oxygen mask before assisting others. In other words, self-care is incredibly important at a time like this, and ensuring that you're making safe and smart choices is a civic duty of the utmost importance. So for some, doing your part will simply mean taking care of yourself. And that's okay!



Graffiti: Prevention, Reporting, What can you do?

Graffiti is not art. It's vandalism. It's painting, drawing, scribbling or "tagging" on any surface without the permission of the property owner. If you see any form of graffiti vandalism **in progress**, please call 9-1-1 right away and report the crime to the police.

We need your help to get rid of graffiti. The faster we hear about and remove it, the less likely it is to spread or re-appear. We remove graffiti on a "first come, first served" basis. The sooner we hear about it, the sooner we'll get rid of it. If it contains offensive material, we'll remove it as quickly as possible.

Saanich municipality proudly works with the police, school groups and volunteers to keep our community vibrant and clean of graffiti. And you can help!

Report Graffiti in Saanich

Saanich Public Works: Saanich traffic sign, road structure, garbage container, bus shelter without advertising or any other obvious municipal structure.

Phone: 250-475-5599 Email: publicworks@saanich.ca

Saanich Parks: Saanich parks sign, trail marker or other structure within a Saanich Park.

Phone: 250-475-5522 Email: parks@saanich.ca

Canada Post: Canada Post mailbox. Phone: 1-866-607-6301

BC Hydro: BC Hydro box or structure. Email: graffiti@bchydro.com

Telus: Telus box or structure. Email: graffiti@telus.com

You may also report vandalism to your local Telus store.

Pattison Outdoor: Bus shelters with advertising.

Phone: 250-413-3212

L.Moffat@PattisonOutdoor.com



**Saanich Police Department
Block Watch**
blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca
www.saanichpolice.ca



If you have observed a crime, or a crime has occurred to you or your property,
contact police immediately, not the Block Watch office.

Call 911 for emergencies. For a non-emergency or if the crime has already occurred & is non-life threatening call 250-475-4321.