



Building Division Bulletin

Planning and Development Services
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Inspection Services During COVID-19 Pandemic

Update: November 9, 2020

This bulletin has been developed to assist permit holders to clarify how inspections services will be delivered during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Inspections services will continue to be delivered, however on a modified basis to ensure the safety of inspection staff and the public. For most inspections, please continue to call the 24 hour inspection line to request for an inspection at 604-541-2135.

- It is expected that all construction sites are following the [Provincial Health Officers Orders and Direction as they relate to the construction site in BC](#);
- It is an expectation that when inspection staff attend a site, that an [appropriate mask/face covering](#) will be worn. If a mask/face covering is not being worn or worn properly, the inspector may refuse the inspection.
- When the Building Official attends for an inspection at a site under construction, the floor area is to be cleared except for a single site representative for the inspection. Physical distancing (2m) is to be maintained throughout the inspection;
- For larger construction sites where there is a Construction Safety Officer (CSO), the Building Official's attendance is to be coordinated by the site's CSO. It is expected the CSO will;
 - Greet Building Official (while maintaining a minimum 2m distance) and sign the Building Official into the site;
 - Brief the Building Official of the COVID19 precautions on site; and
 - Confirm that no staff on site have shown symptoms;
- Inspection staff will not be entering any occupied building or structures. If your inspection is for a building that is currently occupied, your inspection may be able to be conducted through Remote Virtual Inspection (RVI). For details please review the section below for a RVI. Alternatively, all occupants can vacate the premises for the inspection, less a single person to escort the inspector through the building, while wearing a mask and maintaining physical distancing; and
- Building Officials have the right to postpone an inspection if they feel their safety and health cannot be maintained on site. The inspection can be rescheduled once steps have been taken to ensure that the safety and health of the Building Official can be assured onsite.

Remote Virtual Inspections (RVI)

Remote Virtual Inspections (RVI) may be conducted at the discretion of the Building Official. RVIs are intended as a temporary option during the COVID-19 Pandemic and are not intended to replace onsite inspections in the long term. If your building/structure is currently occupied you may request a RVI. To request for a RVI please email building@whiterockcity.ca identifying:

- Civic address of the property;
- Permit number;
- Type of inspection;
- Email address for the person onsite;
- Contact telephone number for the person onsite; and
- Requested date and time.

Once the request is received it will be forwarded to the Building Official. If your request for a RVI is approved you will receive an email RVI invitation through Microsoft Teams. In order to ensure your RVI occurs, it is recommended to download “Microsoft Teams” on to your mobile device for free from your app store. You do not need to register an account and can sign-in as a guest. Please ensure that you allow the app access to your video camera and microphone. Once your inspection commences via Microsoft Teams, the Building Official will direct you to move through the site and to point the video camera at certain locations. If there is any associated documentation required it is to be submitted via email to the inspector in advance of the RVI. The Building Official will confirm the required documentation in advance of your RVI in your email invitation.

Please ensure that all inspection requests are made at least 24 hours in advance of the required inspection time. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the building department at building@whiterockcity.ca or 604-541-2135.

Related Information:

Provincial Health Officer – Direction to Construction Sites
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0002-000542>

WorkSafe BC – Construction and COVID19 Safety
<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-industry-information/construction>