



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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May 29, 2020

File: 0110.00

Dr. Martin Lavoie, MD, FRCPC
Chief Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health
Suite 400, Central City Tower
13450 – 102nd Avenue
Surrey, BC V3T 0H1

Dear Dr. Lavoie:

martin

Re: Request for Official Public Guidance on Pedestrian Protocols

I'm writing on behalf of Council to request that Fraser Health provide official public guidance for pedestrians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Langley City Council is committed to providing a vibrant, healthy, and safe community for our citizens. Since a public health emergency was declared on March 17th, we have frequently noticed pedestrians at heightened safety risk due to what we believe is a misunderstanding of proper protocols when passing other pedestrians on municipal sidewalks. We believe this misunderstanding stems from a general commitment to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres, even while briefly passing someone on a sidewalk. In an effort to comply with the order of the Provincial Health Officer, pedestrians are walking out into vehicle travel lanes, thereby risking personal injury.

At its May 25, 2020 meeting Council passed a motion asking that a letter be sent noting the following:

- Referencing Dr. Bonnie Henry's statement that "if you are passing someone on a sidewalk where you cannot keep 2 metres apart, and you walk by them 'very quickly', the risk of spreading COVID-19 is negligible"; and
- That a standard sidewalk is around 1.5 metres wide, making it impossible to keep 2 metres apart; and
- That many people are walking in general vehicle travel lanes in order to maintain a 2-metre distance from other people, increasing the risk of personal injury.

As we continue to work diligently to ensure that our citizens remain safe during these challenging times, we respectfully request that Fraser Health provide official public guidance for people who are passing others while using sidewalks.

Yours truly,
CITY OF LANGLEY

Val van den Broek
Mayor

cc Langley City Council