



## Block Watch Society of BC COVID-19 Update

To All BC Block Watch Coordinators

I hope this message finds you well during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. The Block Watch Society of BC prides itself on leading you and your respective Block Watch groups during this pandemic and wishes to provide you with some guidance during these times. We must all do our part in preventing and limiting the spread of COVID-19 and must strictly adhere to the guidelines set forth by Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, Premier John Horgan and your local authority.

It is during times like these that neighbours strongly feel the need to look out for one another and to take care of those most vulnerable, and we can build upon the strength of our Crime Prevention groups to do just that. As Coordinators for the Block Watch Program we must provide guidance to our Captains and participants on how to safely manage their current Crime Prevention groups.

These are the suggested best practices:

- Encourage residents to get COVID-19 information from reputable sources such as:
  - [BC Ministry of Health](#)
  - [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
  - [Government of Canada](#)
  - Local Police Department
  - Local Municipal Website
- Remind your participants that Block Watch Program meetings and gatherings are postponed until further notice. This means making changes in your everyday routines to minimize close contact with others, including:
  - Avoiding crowded places and non-essential gatherings
  - Refraining from common greetings, such as hugs and handshakes
  - Limiting contact with people at higher risk like older adults and those in poor health
  - Keeping a distance of at least 2 arms-length (approximately 2 meters) from others

Suggestions for existing Block Watch groups:

- Maintain communication with your neighbours through email, phone calls, social media and video chats. Leave notes for any neighbours who don't use technology
- Greet your neighbours from your front door, porch, and yard while they are on their property. Stay a minimum of 2 meters apart.
- Look out for one another and see who may need assistance during the pandemic
- If you feel comfortable, offer to safely pick-up supplies for neighbours, ring the doorbell and leave supplies outside their door. Remember, no face to face contact
- Shop safe, shop smart and only if you are not required to self-isolate under the BC CDC guidelines ([refer to their website](#)).
- Register with the Province to volunteer for a program that matches seniors who need support with non-medical essentials to volunteers in their community who are willing to help. Register online or over the phone with [BC211](#).
- Join the 7pm nightly ritual to thank our health-care workers



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Should you have prospective new Crime Prevention groups wanting to start here are suggestions to follow:

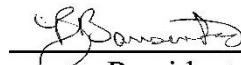
- Have potential Captains fill out an application form for future use
- Send correspondence and information packages through email or Canada Post
- Hold meetings over the phone
- Postpone door-to-door canvassing for neighbours to join the program
- Postpone neighbourhood training for participants
- Postpone all Block Watch meetings and gatherings
- Although we don't want to turn away new groups, we must follow the advice and direction given by Dr. Bonnie Henry

The Block Watch Society also wishes to remind you that the Block Watch name and logo is trademarked and cannot be used for any re-production or media use without the written consent of the Block Watch Society of BC. Municipal partners must also be members in good standing.

If you have specific questions regarding this note or any questions on managing your Block Watch program please contact the [Block Watch Society of BC](#).

On behalf of all the Block Watch Society Directors, we thank you for your service. Stay safe and healthy everyone.

Thank you,

  
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President

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