

Resources for Sex Workers in the Downtown Eastside during COVID-19

Updated April 3, 2020

General Advice for Sex Workers

Covid-19 is spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Seeing clients in person should be a last resort at this time. If you are still seeing clients, try to avoid ones who have Covid-19 symptoms such as fever, headache, coughs. Remember that there is a period where people infected with Covid-19 show no symptoms but could pass the disease to others.

Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds and do this frequently.

Disinfect surfaces often.

Cough or sneeze into your elbow.

More information about Covid-19:
<https://www.flattenthecurve.com/>

Online self-assessment tool for Covid-19:
<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19>

Hand-washing stations

A map of hand-washing stations in Downtown Vancouver and the Downtown Eastside can be found here:
<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/handwashing-facilities-vancouver.pdf>

Sex Work Support Organizations

PACE Society 148 W. Hastings	Drop-in is CLOSED but support and counselling are available by phone. (see below)
WISH Drop-In Centre 334 Alexander Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drop-in is enforcing strict physical distancing policies.• Take away meals and care packages are available.• Showers/bathrooms only available to women who are unhoused.• MAP Van is operating – window only services.

Support and Counselling

PACE Society	Support and counselling are available by phone or Skype: Rachel 604 838-5097 Kit 604 880-5914 Lindsay 604 828-4915
Atira Women's Resource Society	Support Line 604 800-8881
Crisis Services Canada Suicide Helpline	1 833-456-4566

Alternative Income

Digital Sex Work Platform Information:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/174FJzkV4W9u8BpuqZPIZG0EyXphmu7mCdr7il9vIq2k/edit>

Income Support

Apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (\$2,000/mo x 4 months)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

Apply for Employment Insurance – Regular Benefits

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit/apply.html>

Apply for BC Emergency Benefit for Workers (\$1,000 one-time payment)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports/emergency-benefit-workers>

Apply for Provincial Rental Supplement (up to \$500/month)

<https://www.bchousing.org/BCTRS>

Low Cost or Free Food

Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House 573 E Hastings	Bag breakfast and lunch
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre 302 Columbia	Lunch at 12:00 to 2:30 pm
Evelyne Saller Centre 320 Alexander	\$2.00 breakfast, lunch, dinner
First United Church 320 E Hastings	Hot lunch to go, 12:00pm

Quest Food Exchange 611 E Hastings	Low cost groceries
WISH Drop In Centre 334 Alexander	Bagged meals