

HISTRA: Strategies for Managing a Second COVID Summer

While the vaccinations are providing light at the end of the tunnel, it is important to remember there is still much unknown and we must stay vigilant in the care of our island community and its summer visitors. For the vast majority, a vaccine means you will not get sick with COVID19 but doesn't guarantee you cannot carry the virus and possibly spread it to others. In short, we still have a duty to care for one another.

As part of our commitment to responsible vacation rentals, HISTRA strongly advocates a return to the successful protocols and best practices which guided us safely and calmly through last summer.

Housekeeping:

- Follow a systematic and thorough cleaning process where you clean first and then sanitize afterwards. Most sanitizing products must stay moist on cleaned surfaces for a minimum of 10 minutes to be effective (follow each product's instructions). Pay particular mind to sanitize high touch surfaces such as light switches, door knobs, window latches, thermostats, kitchen appliances, and bathroom fixtures.
- Provide sufficient time to air out homes before cleaners come in to do their work.
- Cleaners must practice good hand hygiene before, during and after work.
- Distance rentals with as much time between as possible.

Educate and involve your guests:

- Stay abreast of Public Health Orders from Dr. Henry at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>. Currently no indoor gatherings of any size are permitted. Outdoor gatherings up to a maximum of ten people are allowed with the caveat people must still practice physical distancing unless they live within the same household. Stick to the same people and avoid including new groups.
- Stress the importance for visitors to continue with safety protocols: wear masks, visit outdoors, practice physical distancing and good hand hygiene.
- Provide hand sanitizer at the entrance of your STVR and encourage visitors to use it each time before entering.
- Remind all visitors our at-risk population needs special consideration. Use a cancellation policy which requires visitors to cancel if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID19 or are exposed to someone with symptoms of COVID within a month of their arrival.
- Respect Travel Restrictions. At the time of writing this article, the US/Canadian border is still closed for non-essential travel.

Dr. Henry's wise guidance to "be kind, be calm and be safe" is as relevant today as it was a year ago. You can never go wrong being kind. Let's do our best to help one another make informed decisions for the greater good. We encourage short term

vacation operators to visit www.histra.ca for real support to manage summer rentals successfully. We're happy to share ideas and resources to make it better for everyone.

* A quick reminder our first AGM is Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7PM via Zoom. We invite all Short Term Vacation Operators to join our friendly and proactive ranks to elevate this important island industry. Email hornbyshortterm@gmail.com for more information.