



July 25, 2018

City of Langford  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 877 Goldstream Avenue  
Victoria, BC V9B 2X8

Dear City of Langford (Parks Department):

**Re: Advisory on Poisonous Mushrooms in Greater Victoria**

This is an advisory letter to inform that on July 17, 2018, Island Health had a news release on the early fruiting of death cap mushrooms in Greater Victoria.

We are sending this letter to all municipalities in Greater Victoria for posting or further distribution to staff and the public. By doing so, our goal is to bring awareness of the natural occurrence of poisonous mushrooms in the environment (such as parks and nature trails). With greater public awareness, we hope to prevent any illness or death that may arise from mishandling or consuming the mushrooms.

The following weblinks provide information on the poisonous mushrooms and an electronic advisory poster that can be used to educate:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/food-your-health/fruits-vegetables-grains/wild-mushrooms>  
<http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Educational%20Materials/EH/FPS/Fruit%20and%20Veg/Death%20Cap%20mushroom%20caution%20poster%20-%20Mar%202018.pdf>

The most important points to note:

- Death cap mushrooms are especially dangerous to toddlers and pets.
- Illness after eating death cap mushrooms is very serious: up to 30% of people who eat a death cap will die. Liver transplants are an often necessary life-saving procedure. Early treatment in hospital is essential.
- Gastrointestinal distress (nausea/vomiting) begins about 8 to 12 hours after ingestion. After up to 24 hours have passed, symptoms seem to disappear and people can feel fine for up to 72 hours. However, liver and kidney damage symptoms start 3 to 6 days after mushrooms are eaten.
- If you see death cap mushrooms, wear rubber gloves when removing them, wash your hands thoroughly, package them up with your regular garbage — **do not compost or use the food recycle garbage bin** — and remember to remove them before mowing the lawn to avoid local spread.
- Unless necessary, avoid lawn watering to conserve water and to suppress early fruiting of death caps.
- When removing the mushrooms, the bulbous base needs to be removed as well.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Island Health at 250-519-3401.

---

**Gateway Office**

201 - 771 Vernon Avenue | Victoria, BC V8X 5A7

Tel: 250-519-3401 | Fax: 250-519-3402

*Excellent health and care for everyone, everywhere, every time.*