



## Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership

March 17, 2020

### **RE: COVID-19 Update 2**

Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partners are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation in Alberta. Please note that all Vulcan County Fire Halls are closed to the public until further notice. Vulcan County, the Villages of Champion, Carmangay, Lomond, and Arrowwood Offices are closed to the public. While the Village of Milo, Town of Vulcan, offices remain open, we are urging the public to use the websites or telephone to ask questions rather than coming in. With cases of COVID-19 now confirmed in the South Zone, and increasing numbers throughout Alberta we want to stress the importance of following proper personal hygiene and cleaning processes. Please follow the guidelines below and watch your municipal websites for further updates.

With the increase in cases the Government of Alberta is advising anybody who has recently returned from travel outside Canada or has symptoms – cough, fever, fatigue or difficulty breathing: STAY HOME – do not go to an ER or clinic, take the <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx> self-assessment test on line, and call Health Link 811 for testing and instructions. Effective March 12, all Albertans who are currently outside the country should self-isolate on their return for 14 days, independent of the country they were visiting. Travel outside Canada is not recommended for Albertans at this time. Given the rapid global spread of COVID-19, it is no longer possible to assess health risks for the duration of the trip.

The Government of Alberta has cancelled all classes K to 12, and in-person post-secondary classes as well. All licensed child care facilities, out-of-school programs and preschool programs are closed indefinitely. Approved day homes are exempt as they care for fewer than 7 children at a time, but should use enhanced sanitation practices.



The Registrar of Motor Vehicle Services has enacted section 75.1 of the Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, ALTA Regulation 320/2002. Essentially, Albertans with expiring driver's licences and/or vehicle registrations have until May 15, 2020 to renew these documents. Specifically: Motor vehicle documents that expire March 17, 2020 through to May 14, 2020 are hereby extended, and remain subsisting and valid until midnight on May 15, 2020. Motor vehicle documents include driver's licence, identification card and vehicle registration(s), or any motor vehicle document prescribed by the regulation.

To help protect our vulnerable populations in continuing care or long-term care facilities, it is recommended that only essential visits take place. Families and friends of those in these facilities are asked to think of other ways besides visiting that they can support and encourage their loved ones through this difficult time.

The Government of Alberta is acting quickly to protect Albertans by implementing paid, job-protected leave. Details of how these changes will take effect will be provided in the coming days. Changes to the Employment Standards Code will allow employees to take 14 days of paid, job-protected leave if they are:

- required to self-isolate
- sick or caring for a loved one with COVID-19

To be eligible, employees:

- will not be required to have a medical note
- do not need to have worked for an employer for 90 days

This leave covers the self-isolation period recommended by Alberta's chief medical officer. We recognize this could put pressure on employers, and are working towards a solution to address these challenges. Information for Employers to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/bh022>.



At 1330hrs (1:30pm) March 17, 2020 Premier Jason Kenney announced the **Declaration of a State of Public Health Emergency**. Effective immediately and until further notice, the following measures have been implemented:

- Mass gatherings are now limited to NO more than 50 attendees. This includes worship gatherings and family events such as weddings. Grocery stores, shopping centres, health-care facilities, airports, the legislature and other essential services are not included.
- All Albertans are prohibited from attending public recreational facilities and private entertainment facilities including gyms, swimming pools, arenas, science centres, museums, art galleries, community centres, children's play centres, casinos, racing entertainment centres, and bingo halls.
- Sit-down restaurants, cafés, coffee shops, food courts and other food-serving facilities, including those with a minors-allowed liquor license, are limited to 50 per cent capacity to a maximum of 50 people. Take-out, delivery or drive-through service is permitted. Licensed facilities will also be permitted to deliver liquor.
- At this time, not-for-profit community kitchens, soup kitchens and religious kitchens are exempt, but sanitization practices are expected to be in place and support will be in place for this practice.
- **Until further notice, all Albertans are restricted from attending bars and nightclubs, where minors are prohibited by law.**

All Albertans are encouraged to visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://www.alberta.ca/COVID19) for the latest information, guidance and resources.

Above information sourced from:

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=6980324A5B1B0-BC2C-40A8-A6AD9E30E3189425>

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