



Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership

May 28, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update 56 (**RED text** indicates web link & New Information in **BLUE**)

Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership updates will now be release two (2) days a week. All updates moving forward will be released on Tuesday and Thursday of each week, unless urgent messaging comes from Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health or Government Officials during their daily updates.

Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partners are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation in Alberta. The latest Government of Alberta media releases can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/news.aspx>

All Vulcan County Fire Halls are closed to the public until further notice. The municipal offices of Vulcan County, the villages of Arrowwood, Carmangay, Champion, Lomond and Milo remain closed to the public while business operations are continuing. The Town of Vulcan municipal office remains open, however, **we are urging the public to use municipal websites, email and telephone** to answer their inquiries.

While the number of daily confirmed cases is remaining relatively flat, it is imperative to follow proper personal hygiene and cleaning practices. Please follow these [guidelines](#) and watch your municipal websites for further updates.

Everyone, even persons not exhibiting symptoms or requiring mandatory self-isolation, is strongly encouraged to limit outings to a minimum and stay home; [observe social distancing](#) and avoid touching your face without first washing your hands.

The Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership has put together [a series of videos on COVID-19](#) related themes:

- [Tips for Wearing Masks](#)
- [Tips for Washing Hands and Surfaces](#)
- [Tips on Public Distancing, Touching Your Face and Wearing Gloves](#)
- [When to See the Doctor](#)
- [Protect Our Communities](#)
- [Here for You](#)

Cases in Alberta and Vulcan County

For today, 29 new cases have been confirmed bringing the total to 6,955. Fatalities resulting from COVID-19 are 143. A total of 245,949 Albertans have been tested. There have been a total of 6,160 recoveries to date. There are no confirmed cases within Vulcan County or the urban municipalities within its region, although testing has been undertaken for those with symptoms. Vulcan County is in the [Calgary Health Zone](#). Alberta uses [modelling](#) to anticipate the number of COVID-19 cases over the coming months. [Revised modeling](#) was provided on April 28th.



Canada/US Border Closure

An agreement has been reached between Canada and the United States to keep the border closed to all non-essential travel for another month.

The extension on the existing agreement means that the border restrictions will stay in place until June 21, even as parts of both countries begin gradually reopening. The agreement, as it stands, exempts the flow of trade and commerce, as well as vital health-care workers such as nurses who live and work on opposite sides of the border. Tourists and cross-border visits remain prohibited.

Guidance on Outdoor Activities

With the weather warming up, everyone is eager to go outside for fresh air.

Albertans are encouraged to enjoy outdoor activities, as long as you follow all public health orders to protect yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19.

- [Limit outdoor gatherings](#) to no more than 50 people
- Stay home and away from others if [exhibiting symptoms](#)
- If participating in activities with people from outside your household or [cohort family](#)
 - maintain a physical distance of 2 metres at all times
 - refrain from sharing equipment

Federal Government

- The federal government has received requests from both Quebec and Ontario to extend the periods of deployment for the members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are providing support.
- Prime Minister Trudeau will join the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness, and UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in [convening a special high-level meeting on May 28, 2020](#). Discussions will focus on expanding liquidity in the global economy and maintaining financial stability while protecting the improvements being made in helping less-developed countries.
- During the Tuesday morning press conference, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the federal government has signed a contract with GM to produce 10 million facemasks. This contract will also provide jobs for workers in Oshawa where production has already begun.
- The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has announced an [investment of up to \\$9.2 million to enhance the Youth Employment and Skills Program](#) and will fund up to 700 new positions for youth in the agriculture industry. The additional funding will help the agriculture industry attract Canadians between the ages of 15 to 30, to assist with labour shortages brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The [Department of National Defense announced the first series of calls for innovation](#) that are focusing on the following three challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Viable and effective processes and methods for safely and rapidly decontaminating enclosed work environments (e.g., buildings and modes of transportation) containing sensitive equipment;
 - Innovative material and designs to aid in decontamination of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), operational clothing and equipment for personnel responding to events involving biological hazards; and
 - Data gathering solutions to support the early detection and community-based monitoring of outbreaks of contagious diseases.



Alberta

- **Alberta MLAs return to the legislature on May 27, 2020**, where at least 10 pieces of legislation will be introduced this session, including:
 - Affirming parental rights to make important choices about their children's education;
 - Strengthening public safety; and
 - Reducing red tape.
- As of July 1, 2020, **businesses and non-AHS organizations will be required to access PPE directly through suppliers**, as many companies are now developing and supplying PPE.
- Beginning in June, the **Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta will be hearing some criminal trials in-person** and via the Webex video conference. The court will begin by hearing cancelled trials that were originally scheduled between March 16 to June 26.
- The **Town of Banff is once again welcoming tourists** following a two month state of local emergency, however Banff National Park will not have services available until early June.
- The Government of Alberta has **expanded the hairstylist apprenticeship program** to include barber certification, to help get Albertans back to work sooner during the COVID-19 pandemic.

811 Health Link

Once again, people experiencing 7symptoms are to take the **online** self-assessment.

As a further reminder, **811-health link is for those who are feeling ill and seeking advice**. DO NOT call 811 to report non-compliance of Public Health Orders; these can be reported to the **Environmental Health Complaint Link** or by calling (403) 943-2288.

If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others

- Mental Health Help Line at 1-877-303-2643
- Addiction Help Line at 1-866-332-2322

Local Programs and Initiatives

Vulcan County – Health & Wellness Foundation

Vulcan – Medical Recruitment

Vulcan Regional Food Bank Society

Above information sourced from: <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans>

Sincerely,

Nels Petersen
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Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership