



Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership

March 25, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update 10 (Red Text Indicates Web Link)

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, Milo, and Arrowwood Offices are also closed to the public, however business operations are continuing. While the Town of Vulcan office remains open, we are urging the public whom have questions to use the websites or a telephone as most questions could be answered this way. With increasing numbers of confirmed cases throughout Alberta, we want to stress the importance of following proper personal hygiene and cleaning processes. Please follow these [guidelines](#) and watch your municipal websites for further updates.

Cases in Alberta

Alberta is taking aggressive measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Additional actions may be required in the coming days. The health of Albertans is, and always will be, our top priority.

Alberta confirmed 61 new cases on March 25.

Currently there have been no confirmed cases within Vulcan County or the urban municipalities within its borders. As of March 25, 2020, testing has been completed for 35,089 Albertans.

Support for Albertans

Alberta Health Services is launching a text-based program that aims to help provide encouragement and hope to Albertans. Text4Hope sends subscribers text messages of support and encouragement to ease stress or anxiety. Albertans can text COVID 19 Hope to 393939 to subscribe.

Starting March 23, the Alberta Connects Contact Centre will be available seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Albertans can call toll-free from anywhere in the province by dialing 310-4455 for general information about the Government of Alberta and its response to COVID-19, or for help contacting individual program areas. This line cannot provide medical advice. Anyone who has health concerns or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should complete an online [COVID-19 self-assessment](#)

- Community and Social Services has suspended in-person service delivery in its program offices and Alberta Supports Centres. Albertans should contact 1-877-644-9992 for more information.
- The province has imposed new isolation timelines that are now in effect. For those who are sick, the isolation timeline has changed from 14 days to 10 days, following the onset of symptoms, and only if you are feeling well by then. Those who have been exposed or are returning to Canada but do not have symptoms will still have to isolate for 14 days. Should they start to have symptoms they will have to continue isolation until 10 days from the start of the symptoms.



People not experiencing symptoms are reminded they can still go outside, but this must be limited to activities such as walks, where the individual remains two metres away from others

What steps should businesses be taking?

- We are strongly encouraging businesses and employers to take this opportunity to review their own business continuity plans and consider how they would lower the risk of the spread of infection in the workplace.
- Appropriate steps include making sure staff are familiar with continuity plans and processes are in place in case of a community disruption.
 - More information is available on alberta.ca/COVID19.

Mass Gatherings

A gathering is any event or assembling that brings people together in person, in a single room or single space at the same time. At this time, it does not include normal operations of workplaces and businesses (i.e. offices, manufacturing, construction, industrial) not specifically defined by the chief medical officer of health. Where workplace gatherings of 50 or more people in a single space occur (e.g. training events), they must not proceed. Likewise, it does not include airports, shopping malls, retail or grocery stores or other spaces people may be moving in or walking about as part of normal activities of daily living.

What about families of returning travellers, do they also need to self-isolate?

- At this time, self-isolation does not extend to family members. However, family members must practice good hygiene and take precautions to reduce potential exposure.
- Flights that have confirmed cases and the affected seats will be posted [online as information is confirmed](#). Passengers in affected seats are considered close contacts and are at risk of exposure.
 - Passengers in affected seats should self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.
 - Other passengers are not required to self-isolate but should monitor for symptoms.
 - If symptoms do emerge, the individual is asked to complete a simple [online self-assessment](#) to determine next steps and whether testing is required.

Emergency Isolation Support

The Alberta government will provide immediate financial relief to Alberta's families and vulnerable populations. Albertans should be focused on their health and not worry about whether they can pay their bills so a number of options in place for those struggling financially.

- This will be a temporary program for working adult Albertans who must [self-isolate](#) because they meet the Government of Alberta's published criteria for self-isolation, including persons who are the sole caregiver for a dependent who must self-isolate because they meet the public health criteria, and who will not have another source of pay or compensation while they are self-isolated.
- A one-time payment of \$1,146 will be distributed to bridge the gap until the federal emergency payments begin in April.
- The Province expects the program to be available through a simple online application next week and that funds will be deposited in the accounts of eligible recipients beginning at that time.



Budget

- A \$750 million contingency fund was approved for emergencies and disasters for the 20/21 year. Government will access these funds to help support COVID-19 response measures across our province.
- Government is prepared to take any necessary additional measures to help ensure the health, safety, and economic security of Alberta.

811 Health Link

Once again, people experiencing symptoms are to take the [online](#) self-assessment.

As a further reminder, 811-health link is for those who are feeling ill and seeking advice. Please do not call 811 to report non-compliance of Public Health Orders. This is tying up the line and not the appropriate place to report non-compliance.

Above information sourced from:

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

Sincerely,

Nels Petersen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nels Petersen'.

Regional Director of Emergency Management
Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership