



## Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership

March 20, 2020

### **RE: COVID-19 Update 5**

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.

### **Please see below for a few questions and answers**

#### **Do people need to take steps to disinfect purchased goods (particularly stuff like fruit and vegetables) above and beyond what they'd normally do?**

- The virus is primarily transmitted through person-to-person spread by larger droplets, like from a cough or sneeze.
- It can also be passed by touching contaminated objects or surfaces, then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- While the virus can live under ideal circumstances (such as on stainless steel) for several days, it is generally only live on surfaces like paper or plastic for a few hours.
- There is no evidence of the virus being spread by packaging mail, grocery goods or other items.

As always the best steps to prevent transmission is for Albertans to wash their hands, regularly clean surfaces and follow the other recommended steps on [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://www.alberta.ca/COVID19)

#### **Should people be hoarding food or stocking up on supplies?**

- It is always best practice for individuals to have at least three days worth of supplies on hand, whether due to sickness, an ice storm, or a pandemic situation.
- A basic emergency kit should include water, non-perishable food items, toiletries, medication and other items.
- For more information on how to be prepared for emergencies, go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/build-an-emergency-kit.aspx>
- Outside of this best practice, we are not advising that Albertans change their approach to managing household supplies at this time.



- The best thing that people can do to be prepared is to build habits of regular hand washing, avoiding touching their face with unwashed hands, staying home when sick, and covering their coughs and sneezes.

**What about grocery stores and shopping centres, etc.? These places are likely to be busier than usual with people stocking up on supplies. Should they be avoided?**

- At this time, the public health restrictions do not extend to grocery stores, airports or shopping centres.
- All Albertans should practise good hygiene, such as frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least twenty seconds, and should stay home if feeling ill.
- It's important to remember that COVID-19 is not airborne. It is spread by droplets or touching surfaces and then touching your face, so close contact is required.
- In the event of someone testing positive for COVID-19, or being a close contact, AHS will contact anyone at risk.
- Please visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](http://alberta.ca/COVID19) for up-to-date information.

**PHARMACEUTICALS**

**There are reports of people stockpiling medication. What is the government doing in response?**

- To ensure Albertans continue to have access to essential medications and to help pharmacists address this situation, we will be recommending that pharmacies provide a maximum 30-day supply of prescription drugs.
- We recognize this means that Albertans will need to refill their prescriptions more often.
- Albertans should speak with their pharmacist about when it is appropriate to fill their prescriptions.
- To assist with the added cost, those with Alberta government-sponsored drug coverage will pay a lower co-payment of up to \$8 per prescription for a 30 day supply. The current co-payment is up to \$25 per prescription.
- Other provinces are implementing similar supply measures to ensure a consistent approach across the country.

**NON-COVID-19 HEALTHCARE**

**I don't have COVID-19 symptoms and I need medical assistance for another reason, but I can't get treatment (medicentres are closed/doctors are turning patients away/I can't get through to Health Link)...what do I do?**

- We understand the strain that COVID-19 is causing on many Albertans. If your family physician or other health-care provider is unable or unwilling to receive you, we recommend you contact another health-care provider to find out if they are available.
- To find a family doctor near you who is accepting new patients, Primary Care Networks and the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta offer online tools. Visit <https://albertafindadoctor.ca/> and <https://search.cpsa.ca/physiciansearch>
- We recommend any non-essential visits are postponed at this time.



### What is happening for Grade 12 students and their diploma exams?

- At this time, diploma exams essential for post-secondary acceptance will continue.
- Every student who is eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate.
- The government will be working with post-secondary institutions to ensure these extraordinary circumstances do not prevent students from being eligible for admission to post-secondary studies for the upcoming school year.
- We will also ensure adult learners scheduled to write diplomas exams still have an opportunity to do so.

All Albertans are still 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>

Nels Petersen

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

Regional Director of Emergency Management  
Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership