



Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership

April 2, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update 18 (RED text indicates web link & New Information in BLUE)

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.

With increasing numbers of confirmed cases, it is imperative to follow proper personal hygiene and cleaning practices. Please follow these [guidelines](#) and watch your municipal websites for further updates.

Citizens not exhibiting symptoms, or requiring mandatory self-isolation are still strongly encouraged to limit outings to a minimum and stay home.

Cases in Alberta and Vulcan County

The Government of Alberta is taking aggressive measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. Given modelling provided by Alberta Health Services, current projections don't expect the pandemic to peak until well into April and Albertans are asked to be vigilant.

On April 2, 96 new cases have been confirmed bringing the total to 968. Two (2) fatalities have resulted from COVID-19 bringing that number to thirteen (13). A total of 57,096 Albertans have been tested. There have been a total of 174 recoveries to date.

There continue to be **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](#).

Support for Albertans

For those in financial distress, [Emergency financial assistance programs](#) are available and information can be found online. Some local programs are also available through Family and Community Support Services (FCSS).

The Government of Alberta has introduced [rent controls](#) that prohibit evictions before May 1, 2020, or increasing rents until the State of Public Health Emergency has been lifted.

A dedicated team of mental health professionals are available at the Mental Health Help Line by dialing 1-877-303-2643 or the Addiction Help Line by dialing 1-866-332-2323.

Text4Hope sends subscribers text messages of support and encouragement to ease stress or anxiety. Albertans



can text COVID 19 Hope to 393939 to subscribe. Take the time to connect with family and friends digitally or over the phone.

Alberta Connects Contact Centre is 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**.

What is the best way to practise physical distancing?

- To protect yourself and others:
 - keep at least 6 feet (the length of a bicycle) from others when going out for groceries, medical trips and other essential needs
 - limit the number of times you leave your home for errands
 - try to shop at less busy times
 - order online to have groceries or other items delivered if possible
 - go for a walk in your neighborhood or park while staying 6 feet from others
 - avoid overcrowding in elevators or other enclosed spaces
 - follow Alberta's recommendations on mass gatherings
 - wash or sanitize your hands after touching communal surfaces

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement agencies have been granted full authority to enforce the public health orders to assist Alberta Health Services in enforcing Alberta's Public Health Act, as well as the Chief Medical Officer of Health's orders in relation to:

- Prohibiting persons in the province from attending:
 - Schools, daycares (with some exemptions for core service workers) and post-secondary institutions;
 - **Mass gatherings** of more than **15 attendees**;
 - Public recreational facilities;
 - Bars and nightclubs;
- Requiring self-isolation from:
 - An individual returning to Alberta from outside of Canada;
 - A close contact of an individual who is confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 or probably infected with COVID-19; and
 - An individual with symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or nasal congestion.

Consequences

- Anyone putting their families, their neighbours, or other Albertans at risk will face consequences.
- Through amendments to the Procedures Regulation under the Provincial Offences Procedures Act, community peace officers, in addition to police, will be able to issue tickets to enforce COVID-19 public health orders.
- Fines administered through tickets for violating an order have increased from up to \$100 per day to a prescribed fine of \$1,000 per occurrence.
- Courts will also have increased powers to administer fines of up to \$100,000 for a first offence and up to \$500,000 for a subsequent offence for more serious violations.



- These are aggressive measures that we do not take lightly, but they are necessary to keep us all healthy and safe.

Isolation

- If you need to self-isolate, you must follow these steps:
 - Stay home – do not leave your home or attend work, school, social events or any other public gatherings.
 - Avoid close contact with other people, including household members but especially seniors and people with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems.
 - Don't take public transportation like buses, taxis or ride-sharing, where possible. If you are under mandatory self-isolation, taking public transportation is legally prohibited.
 - Watch for symptoms in yourself or a family member.
 - Watch for symptoms like fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose or difficulty breathing in yourself or a family member.

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.** 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.

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/release.cfm?xID=6980324A5B1B0-BC2C-40A8-A6AD9E30E3189425>

Sincerely,

Nels Petersen

Regional Director of Emergency Management

Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership