



Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership

April 7, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update 23 (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.

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.

Cases in Alberta and Vulcan County

The Government of Alberta is taking aggressive measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. Albertans are asked to be vigilant to prevent intensive care units from being overwhelmed.

For today, 25 new cases have been confirmed bringing the total to 1,373. Two (2) fatalities have resulted from COVID-19 bringing that number to twenty-six (26). A total of 67,117 Albertans have been tested. While there are presently 90 hospitalizations, 31 of which are in intensive care units, there are a total of 447 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.

Alberta Health Services has developed a [COVID19 Resource Page for the Low German Mennonite Community](#). There is a Low German COVID19 overview video available [HERE](#), as well as Low German pandemic history available [HERE](#). An English and Low German COVID19 Screening audio can be found [HERE](#).



The **Bits and Pieces Program** solicits voluntary contributions from the private sector toward the COVID19 relief effort. These include commercial vehicles, hotel rooms and mobile trailers, food and water services, hospital gowns, face masks, ventilators and other personal protective equipment. **Those wishing to contribute can submit their intention and contact details on this [Online Portal](#).**

Minister Leela Aheer and Erica Wiebe, Alberta Ambassador for Sport and Active Living, are challenging Albertans to maintain a healthy physical and mental lifestyle at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. They challenge Albertans to post their home wellness activities using the hashtag #HealthyAtHomeAB.

[A list of daycare providers has been compiled](#) for access by those working in health-care, critical infrastructure and first responders in the larger urban centres across Alberta.

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**.

Emergency Isolation Support

- The Government of Alberta's **Emergency Isolation Support program** is now **closed** after successfully distributing about \$91.7 million to 79,596 eligible Albertans since the launch of the program – close to double the amount originally allocated.
- This was a temporary program to provide one-time funding until the Government of Canada announced its own support program. The new **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** is available starting April 6. Payments will be retroactive to March 15, 2020.

Isolation

On which day does the 14-day self-isolation period begin after having close contact with someone who has the virus?

- Close contacts of cases are to be quarantined for 14 days from their last exposure to the case. The last day of exposure is considered day 0 for the purposes of counting.
- If there is ongoing unprotected contact (such as in a household setting) the quarantine period begins when the COVID-19 case is considered no longer infectious. This would be 10 days after symptoms began in the case, or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

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.



Wearing Masks

Medical Masks

- Include N95 masks and surgical or procedure masks
- must be kept for health care workers and people providing direct care to COVID-19 patients

Non-Medical Masks:

- should only be used in addition to other protective steps
- include cloth or homemade masks
- are not proven to protect the person wearing it, but may help protect others
- cover your mouth and nose to prevent respiratory droplets from contaminating other people or surfaces
- must be worn and taken on/off properly as the outside can become contaminated

CDC Guide to Mask Making

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=70009006E7A24-0CB0-DB76-8FDE7FAC19DDB875>

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