



Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership

April 30, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update 44 (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.

The Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership has put together a series of videos on a number of COVID-19 related items. These helpful videos include:

- [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](#)

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, 190 new cases have been confirmed bringing the total to 5,355. There are TWO (2) new fatalities resulting from COVID-19 bringing the total number to eighty-nine (89). A total of 148,937 Albertans have been tested. There have been a total of 2,161 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](#).

Alberta uses [modelling](#) to anticipate the number of COVID-19 cases over the coming months. This helps us make decisions and prepare hospitals to care for critical and acute patients.



Alberta's COVID-19 Relaunch Plans

Some of the early steps will begin on May 1, others on May 4. They include:

- Alberta Health Services will resume some scheduled, non-urgent surgeries as soon as May 4.
- Dental and other health-care workers, such as physiotherapists, speech language pathologists, respiratory therapists, audiologists, social workers, occupational therapists, dietitians and more, will be allowed to resume services starting May 4, as long as they are following approved guidelines set by their professional colleges.
- Access to provincial parks and public lands will be re-opened using a phased approach, beginning with:
 - Vehicle access to parking lots and staging areas in parks and on public lands will be opening on May 1.
 - A number of boat launches in provincial parks will be opening on on May 1 and working to have them all open by May 14.
 - Aiming to make campsites available as soon as possible, with the goal to have as many open as possible by June 1. At this time, sites are open to Albertans only.
 - Group and comfort camping will not be offered.
 - Campground facility access restrictions to areas such as showers, picnic and cooking shelters will also be posted to albertaparks.ca.
 - Alberta Parks' online reservation system will be available May 14 to book site visits beginning June 1. Out-of-province bookings will not be processed.
 - No washrooms or garbage pickup will be available within provincial parks at this time.
 - Fire bans in parks, protected areas and the Forest Protection Area remain in place.
 - Private and municipal campgrounds and parks can open with physical distancing restrictions, under their own local authority.
 - Golf courses can open on May 4, with restrictions including keeping clubhouses and pro shops closed.

If all goes well, Stage 1 would allow some businesses and facilities to start gradually resuming operations as early as May 14, with increased infection prevention and controls. They include the following easements:

- Retail businesses, such as clothing, furniture and bookstores. All vendors at farmer's markets will also be able to operate.
- Some personal services like hairstyling and barber shops.
- Museums and art galleries.
- More scheduled surgeries, dental procedures, physiotherapy, chiropractic, optometry and similar services.
- Daycares and out-of-school care with limits on occupancy.



- Summer camps with limits on occupancy. This could include summer school.
- Cafés, restaurants (minors allowed in liquor licensed establishments) with no bar service to reopen for public seating at 50 per cent capacity.
- Some additional outdoor recreation.
- Post-secondary institutions will continue to deliver courses, however how programs are delivered – whether online, in-person, or a blend – will be dependent on what restrictions remain in place at each relaunch phase.
- The use of masks will be strongly recommended in certain specific crowded public spaces, like mass transit, that do not allow for physical distancing (two metres apart).

Still not permitted in Stage 1:

- Gatherings of more than 15 people. (Gatherings of 15 people or fewer must follow personal distancing and other public health guidelines.)
- Arts and culture festivals, major sporting events, and concerts, all of which involve close physical contact.
- Movie theatres, theatres, pools, recreation centres, arenas, spas, gyms and nightclubs will remain closed.
- Visitors to patients at health-care facilities will continue to be limited.
- In-school classes for kindergarten to Grade 12 students.

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/release.cfm?xID=70009006E7A24-0CB0-DB76-8FDE7FAC19DBB875>

Sincerely,

Nels Petersen

Regional Director of Emergency Management

Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership