



Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership

May 4, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update 48 (**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 COVID-19](#) related themes:

- [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](#)
- [Here for You](#)

Cases in Alberta and Vulcan County

For today, 70 new cases have been confirmed bringing the total to 5,836. There is NINE (9) new fatality resulting from COVID-19, bringing the total number to 104. A total of 161,245 Albertans have been tested. There have been a total of 2,942 recoveries to date. There are **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. [Revised modeling](#) was provided on April 28th. [A Sprung Field Hospital has been completed at Foothills Hospital](#) should the province realize a spike in Covid-19 hospitalizations.

[Opening Soon – Alberta’s Relaunch Strategy](#): The Government of Alberta has released their relaunch strategy for the upcoming months. Detailed information is in the link referenced above. [Stage highlights include](#):



Stage 1 (as early as May 14)	Stage 2 (timing to be determined based on health indicators)	Stage 3 (timing to be determined based on health indicators with gradual implementation)
<p>With increased infection prevention and controls, some businesses and facilities will be allowed to resume operations as early as May 14.</p> <p>This stage will allow some businesses and services to reopen and resume operations with two metre physical distancing requirements and other public health guidance in place. This includes:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Retail businesses such as clothing, furniture and bookstores.</p> <p>Some personal services, such as hairstyling and barber shops.</p> <p>Museums and art galleries.</p> <p>More scheduled surgeries and dental procedures.</p> <p>Daycares with limits on occupancy.</p> <p>Summer camps with limits on occupancy. This could include summer school.</p> <p>Cafés, restaurants (minors allowed in liquor-licensed establishments) with no bar service to reopen for public seating at 50 per cent capacity.</p> <p>Some additional outdoor recreation.</p>	<p>Timing of this stage will be determined by the success of Stage 1, considering the capacity of the health care system and continued limiting and/or reduction of the rate of infections, hospitalization, and ICU cases.</p> <p>This stage will allow additional businesses and services to reopen and resume operations with two metre physical distancing requirements and other public health guidelines in place. This includes:</p> <p>Potential Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools with restrictions.</p> <p>Libraries.</p> <p>More scheduled surgeries, including backlog elimination.</p> <p>Personal services such as artificial tanning, esthetics, cosmetic skin and body treatments, manicures, pedicures, waxing, facial treatments, massage and reflexology.</p> <p>Restaurants, cafés, lounges and bars continuing to operate at reduced capacity.</p> <p>Permitting of some larger gatherings (number of people to be determined as we learn more about the levels of risk for different activities) in some situations.</p> <p>Movie theatres and theatres opening with restrictions.</p>	<p>Timing of this stage is to be determined and will involve:</p> <p>Fully reopening all businesses and services, with limited restrictions.</p> <p>Permitting larger gatherings (number of people to be determined).</p>
<p>Rules and guidance for the use of masks in crowded spaces, especially on mass transit.</p> <p>Visitors to patients at health-care facilities will continue to be limited.</p>	<p>Visitors to patients at health-care facilities will continue to be limited.</p>	
<p>Public attendance at businesses, facilities and events that have close physical contact will not be permitted, including: arts and culture festivals, major sporting events, and concerts.</p> <p>Movie theatres, pools, recreation centres, arena, spas, gyms and nightclubs will remain closed.</p>	<p>Nightclubs, gyms, pools, recreation centres and arenas will remain closed.</p> <p>Arts and culture festivals, concerts and major sporting events will continue to not be permitted.</p>	<p>Arts and culture festivals, concerts and major sporting events will be permitted with enhanced protection controls in place.</p> <p>Nightclubs, gyms, pools, recreation centres and arenas will reopen with enhanced protection controls in place.</p> <p>Physical distancing restrictions will be maintained.</p> <p>Resuming industry conferences with restrictions.</p>
<p>Non-essential travel is not recommended.</p>	<p>Non-essential travel is not recommended.</p>	<p>Non-essential travel no longer discouraged.</p>
<p>Remote working is advised where possible.</p>		
<p>Enhanced infection prevention and control measures will be in place in all phases.</p>		



PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURE BY STAGES

Public health measure	Current	Stage 1 (to start as early as May 14)	Stage 2	Stage 3
Physical distancing	Maintain distance of 2m	Maintain distance of 2m	Maintain distance of 2m	Maintain distance of 2m
Gatherings	Gatherings > 15 prohibited	Gatherings > 15 prohibited	Size of permitted gatherings will increase	Size of permitted gatherings will increase
Public masks	Encourage wearing a mask where unable to physically distance	Encourage wearing a mask where unable to physically distance	Encourage wearing a mask where unable to physically distance	Unnecessary
Vulnerable Albertans (outside facility)	Remain home unless medically necessary	Stay at home as much as possible	Resume normal activities and interactions	Resume normal activities and interactions
Vulnerable Albertans (facility-based)	Visitor, staff, and operational restrictions	Visitor, staff, and operational restrictions	Visitor, staff, and operational restrictions	Lifted
Non-essential domestic travel	Non-essential travel not recommended	Non-essential travel not recommended	Non-essential travel not recommended	Lifted
Isolation and quarantine	14 days for cases, close contacts, and returning travelers 10 days if symptomatic but don't fit above categories	14 days for cases, close contacts, and returning travelers 10 days if symptomatic but don't fit above categories	14 days for cases, close contacts, and returning travelers 10 days if symptomatic but don't fit above categories	Lifted

[Low German Mennonite Community Resource Inventory](#)

Throughout the pandemic response in this province, [Alberta Health Services has been maintaining an inventory of resources](#) specifically tailored for the Low German Mennonite Community. To put things in perspective, one fifth of our population base in Vulcan County speaks Low German as a first language.

[Barons-Eureka-Warner Family and Community Support Services has a YouTube Channel](#) that covers a wide range of subjects potentially of interest to Low German speakers. There is information on Covid-19 and personal hygiene, as well as other video guides on a wide range of subjects unrelated to the pandemic.

[Vulcan Dental Clinic](#)

Our local dentist is now able to accept more “Urgent Care Cases” rather than just “Emergency Care Patients.” Those in physical discomfort are encouraged to [contact the clinic](#).



Guidance on Outdoor Activities

With the weather warming up, there are many outdoor activities Albertans can do safely while still following all public health orders. When outdoors in public, Albertans can take a number of precautions to protect themselves and those around them:

- Plan your activity in advance to ensure physical distancing is possible. If your activity involves a public place:
 - consider going during non-peak hours
 - walk along the sides of trails and other public pathways to maintain distance
- Limit activities with people from other households; make sure everyone is aware of the requirement for physical distancing.
- Practice good hygiene:
 - wash your hands frequently
 - refrain from touching your face with unclean hands
 - carry and use hand sanitizer
- Wear a mask in public places to help limit the risk of spread to others.

Restrictions on events, gatherings and certain types of businesses are in place to limit situations where COVID-19 could be transmitted through contact with an infected person or through contact with frequently touched surfaces and objects.

Long Term Care, Supportive Living, and Congregate Living

- As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, AHS is taking additional steps to ensure those most at risk of contracting the virus are protected.
- Visitors may not enter any continuing care facility (long-term care or licensed supportive living), except for visits from a designated essential visitor:
 - when a resident is dying
 - where, in rare situations, the resident's quality of life or care needs cannot be met without the visitor's assistance
- Up to two visitors may attend to a resident in a continuing care centre who is at the end of their life. This is defined as up to two weeks before death, but it is understood that estimates are imprecise.
 - Visitors must be verified and undergo a health screening prior to entering the facility. They are also required to wear a mask during their visit and maintain physical distancing.
- Residents who are not in isolation may visit outdoors with a designated essential visitor and one other person. However, physical distancing must be practiced and all visitors must wear a mask or some other form of face covering.
- Visits are allowed for patients in maternity care and children who are patients in acute care/outpatient settings.
 - Again, visitors must be verified and undergo a health screening prior to entering the facility. They are also required to wear a mask during their visit.
- Families and friends of those in these facilities are encouraged think of how they can support and encourage their loved ones through this difficult time without visiting.

For more information, visit <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17001.aspx>.



811 Health Link

Once again, people experiencing 7 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.

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=712469B7CFC3B-DCC6-B69B-25E17B8AD137D137>

Sincerely,

Nels Petersen
Regional Director of Emergency Management
Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership