



## Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership

May 7, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update 50 (**RED text** indicates web link & New Information in **BLUE**)

Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership updates will now be release two (2) days a week. All updates moving forward will be released on Tuesday and Thursday of each week, unless urgent messaging comes from Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health or Government Officials during their daily updates.

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, 54 new cases have been confirmed bringing the total to 6,017. Fatalities resulting from COVID-19 are 114. A total of 174,327 Albertans have been tested. There have been a total of 3,809 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 28<sup>th</sup>.

**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.



### Commercial Cattle Branding:

To summarize - Workplaces that are not otherwise restricted or ordered to cease offering close-contact services or services accessible by the public can have more than 15 workers on a work site as long as they follow all public health guidelines, including physical distancing measures, such as:

- prohibiting people from coming to work sick or showing any potential COVID-19 symptoms: cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat
- wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; use hand sanitizer often in the absence or soap/water hand washing stations.
- cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow
- avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- maintaining physical distancing (keep at least 6 feet or length of hockey stick away from others). Adjust processes and animal handling systems to maintain physical distancing whenever possible while maintaining the safety of workers and animals' welfare.

COVID-19 is not airborne, which means it doesn't stay in the air long and won't go very far. But if you are too close to someone with COVID-19 you can get sick by breathing in air that contains droplets with the virus. Therefore, when impossible to maintain the physical distancing between interconnected roles or close proximity teams (e.g. people administering branding, medical injections and/or handling the animal) then consider:

- Assigning people who already commingle as a "family group that lives together" to those interconnected roles or close proximity teams.
- Outfitting interconnected roles or close proximity teams, particularly ones that are not "family groups living together" with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) whenever possible or reasonable. PPE can include the following, as either disposable or washable items, gloves, coveralls, face-masks, hats or even plastic face shields.

It is recommended that individual users of PPE avoiding unnecessary shaking or tossing of items that could cause COVID 19 droplets to "shed", and that used items are placed directly into trash or a washing machine. All potential COVID exposed materials should be washed with hot water and soap that create suds/bubbles to break down any virus droplets.

### 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.

### 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 7symptoms 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,

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

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