



Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership

May 14, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update 52 (**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.

While the number of daily confirmed cases is remaining relatively flat, 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, 50 new cases have been confirmed bringing the total to 6,457. Fatalities resulting from COVID-19 are 121. A total of 200,218 Albertans have been tested. There have been a total of 5,205 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.



Alberta's Relaunch Strategy

Lifted restrictions

- Retail businesses like clothing, furniture and book stores.
- All farmers' market vendors.
- Hairstyling and barber shops.
- Cafés, restaurants, pubs and bars can reopen for table service at 50% capacity.
- Some scheduled, non-urgent surgeries to resume gradually.
- Museums and art galleries.
- Daycares and out-of-school care, with occupancy limits.
- Day camps, including summer school, with occupancy limits.
- Post-secondary institutions will continue course delivery, with flexibility for in-person delivery once the existing public health order prohibiting in-person classes is lifted.
- Places of worship and funeral services, if they follow sector-specific guidance.

Continuing restrictions

- Gatherings of more than 15 people will not be permitted, unless otherwise identified in public health orders or guidance.
- Gatherings of 15 people or fewer must follow physical distancing and other public health guidelines.
- 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.
- Movie theatres, pools, recreation centres, arenas, spas, nightclubs and gyms will remain closed.
- Visiting patients in health care facilities will remain limited.
- In-school classes for kindergarten to Grade 12 students will remain prohibited.

Recommendations

- Travel outside the province is not recommended.
- Calgary and Brooks residents are encouraged to wait for local services to reopen rather than travelling for services.
- Remote working is advised where possible.
- Download the ABTraceTogether mobile contact tracing app and use it when in public.

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, carry and use a hand sanitizer
 - refrain from touching your face with unclean hands
- 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/coronavirus-info-for-albertans>

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