



## Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Partnership (VCREMP)

September 1, 2020

### **RE: COVID-19 Update 74 (**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>

Due to the evolving situation with infections at the Old Colony Seniors Facility, the Village of Carmangay Office and Public Works is currently closed while Alberta Health Services conducts contact tracing and subsequent testing to determine possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus. The Village of Carmangay is working with AHS and will continue to follow their guidance. Alberta Health will provide further information as to the outbreak on their website which will be referenced in all future Village communications.

Core services such as water, wastewater, and solid waste will continue to be provided with no interruption in service, as the Village of Carmangay's Continuity Plan is in place and functioning.

Other municipal offices and operations within the region remain open however, we are urging the public to use municipal websites, email and telephone to answer their inquiries. Vulcan County Protective Services is open by appointment only. Fire Halls are closed to the public until further notice.

Currently active cases within the Vulcan County region breakdown as follows:

- 18 active cases
- 16 of the 18 cases are over the age of 40
- 9 cases are linked to the Old Colony Seniors Lodge
- 3 cases are of a known exposure
- 6 cases are from an unknown exposure.

With the number of active cases within the Vulcan County Region, we are now listed under the **"WATCH"** category. This is due to the number of active cases being at a threshold of 194.7 per 100,000.

As cases have now been confirmed within the Vulcan County region, it is imperative to follow proper personal hygiene and cleaning practices. Please follow these [guidelines](#) and watch your municipal websites for further updates.

**Active cases within the Province** now stand at 14,066. Testing has been completed on 773,854 people, accounting for 976,423 total tests. The interactive Provincial map can be found [here](#).

Everyone, even persons not exhibiting symptoms or requiring mandatory self-isolation, is strongly encouraged to limit outings to a minimum, [observe social distancing](#) and avoid touching your face without first washing your hands.

**With the confirmation of a confirmed cases within our region, please remain vigilant in the practices that have been established. CASE NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE WITHIN OUR AREA, PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE TAKING PROPER PRECAUTIONS.**



**What YOU can do to HELP:**

- Wear a mask in public
- Download/Use the ABTraceTogether App
- Wash hands often
- Use gloves properly if you choose to wear them
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissue or your elbow
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid travel outside of Canada
- Watch for COVID-19 symptoms
- GET TESTED IF YOU FEEL SICK

Wearing a mask shows...



Kindness

VCREMP 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](#)

**Provincial Measures and Indicators of COVID-19 Regional Risks**

There are two indicators the Province is using as measures on how regions are doing, with three classifications:

**Open**

- low level of risk, no additional restrictions in place
- less than 50 active cases per 100,000

**Watch**

- the province is monitoring the risk and discussing with local government(s) and other community leaders the possible need for additional health measures
- at least 10 active cases and more than 50 active cases per 100,000

**Enhanced**

- risk levels require enhanced public health measures to control the spread
- informed by local context

**Returning to School**

The Alberta government has three scenarios in which schooling will be provided for the 2020-2021 school year. The Alberta government will make the decision to transition between scenarios, if needed, throughout the school year.

Local school authorities continue to have the autonomy and flexibility to determine the calendar for the upcoming school year, including the length of the school day, in order to meet local needs.



### Scenario 1: in-school classes resume (near normal with health measures)

- Local school authorities can adjust their school calendars and/or the number and length of instructional days, within the parameters of all contractual agreements with school authority employees, to address content in subject areas and review components from the 2019-20 school year.
- School authorities must follow public health measures for children and student learning and extra-curricular activities including physical distancing when possible.
- Mask use will be required for staff and teachers in all settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear them in all shared areas or when in common areas such as a hallway and on a bus. Exemptions will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other needs.

### Scenario 2: in-school classes partially resume (with additional health measures)

- Mask use will be required for staff and teachers in all settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained. Students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear them in all shared areas or when in common areas such as a hallway and on a bus. Exemptions will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other needs.
- Taking into consideration local circumstances, school authorities may divide children and students into two or more groups to go back to in-school classes on an alternating schedule – in which not all students are in classes at school at the same time.
- Local school authorities can adjust their school calendar and/or instructional days, within the parameters of all contractual agreements with school authority employees to address content in subject areas and review components from the 2019-20 school year.
- School authorities must follow public health measures related to the greatest extent possible for children and student learning and extra-curricular activities.
- With physical distancing requirements of two metres, school authorities will need to consider:
  - bus transportation,
  - parent drop off protocols,
  - entry to the school,
  - the start and end times for school days,
  - how classes are scheduled,
  - large gatherings, such as recess and lunch breaks (may need to off-set schedules, limit number of children, students and supervisors),
  - washroom use,
  - movement in hallways,
  - use of auxiliary spaces,
  - the configuration of furniture and equipment to ensure that physical distancing is place,
  - hygiene and cleaning protocols, and
  - protocols for isolating children or students that who become ill at school.



### Scenario 3: at-home learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

- All school authorities offer at-home learning opportunities to their children and students.
- Following are the expectations for the education system when operating within scenario 3 for the 2020-21 school year on the number of instructional hours. These instructional hours are minimums and local school authorities have the flexibility to increase hours beyond these minimums.
- Content to be delivered for all grades:
  - ECS – Grade 3
    - focus on language and mathematics learning outcomes that strengthen the development of literacy and numeracy
    - incorporate health curriculum outcomes (with a focus on mental health)
    - average of five hours of work per child or student per week
  - Grades 4-6
    - focus on language and mathematics learning outcomes that strengthen the development of literacy and numeracy
    - incorporate science, social studies and wellness (with a focus on mental health) curriculum outcomes
    - average of six to eight hours of work per student per week
  - Grades 7-9
    - focus on core mathematics, language/literacy, science, social studies and wellness (with a focus on physical and mental health) curriculum outcomes
    - average of 12 to 16 hours of work per student per week
  - Grades 10-12
    - focus on specified and core course requirements for high school graduation, including language (English, Français and French language arts), social studies, mathematics, and science (biology, chemistry, physics and science)
    - average of six hours of work per 5-credit semestered course per week;
    - average of 3 hours of work per 3-credit semestered course per week
- Should scenario 2 or 3 be in place, the ability for the Principal to award up to 15 unassigned credits to students in Grade 12 will be activated.
- Teachers continue to be responsible for assessing the progress of children and students.
- Students continue to be responsible to actively engage in learning and diligently pursue their education.
- School authorities, parents/guardians, children and students must continue to follow public health measures in place.

### **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.**

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



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

Phone: 403-485-3111  
Fax: 403-485-2920

