

LOCAL UPDATES

The East Kootenay Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) has been activated since March 13 to:

- Coordinate the dissemination of local, provincial and federal information to residents through daily regional snapshots.
- Coordinate planning and response actions between the 8 municipalities and 4 First Nations across the region.
- Support Interior Health in planning for the next phases of pandemic response.
- Support agencies assisting vulnerable populations to ensure continuity of service.
- Fulfill provincial ministerial orders as they relate to COVID19.

The REOC is staffed with personnel from the RDEK, local municipalities and a First Nations Liaison. The REOC holds twice weekly coordination calls with key stakeholders including Interior Health, School Districts and first responder agencies.

The REOC is also the key point of contact between the Southeast Provincial Regional EOC in Nelson and Interior Health's East Kootenay Incident Command in Cranbrook.

NEW PROVINCIAL UPDATES

- 44,639 individuals have been tested as of April 1, 2020.
- A new community outbreak of COVID-19 has been detected with an inmate in a correctional centre in the Okanagan. BC Corrections has implemented response protocols and the inmate has been isolated.
- With a number of religious celebrations in the upcoming weeks (such as Easter), faith leaders are being called on to postpone all in-person gatherings and use other tools to connect followers and celebrate.
- A new Economic Recovery Task Force began work today. The task force includes leaders from business, labour, First Nations and not-for-profits. Their goal is to ensure the benefits of provincial programs are reaching their intended targets and complement federal programs; review designation of essential services, child care and other essential service support; assess safe workplace operations; and, discuss long-term economic recovery.
- The Province is taking steps to protect those providing essential services by ensuring they cannot be held liable for damages caused by exposure to COVID-19 while continuing to operate, as long as they are complying with all orders.

CRANBROOK ROTARY GROCERY VOUCHER PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The Cranbrook Rotary Club, with generous support from Save-On Foods and Real Canadian Superstore, has a new grocery voucher program to help those in need in the community. The vouchers are now available through the Salvation Army now.

Donations toward the campaign can be made to the Cranbrook Rotary Club. To donate or learn more, contact Bill Bennett at 250-919-2255 or by email at Kootenay.Bill@gmail.com



Current Situation in BC

(as of April 2, 2020)

Cases:

- Total confirmed cases in BC: 1,121
- New cases since April 1: 55
- Hospitalized cases: 149
- Intensive Care: 68
- COVID-19 Related Deaths: 31
- Recovered: 641

Confirmed cases by region:

- Vancouver Coastal Health: 525
- Fraser Health: 386
- Island Health: 72
- Interior Health: 121
- Northern Health: 17

Link to full news release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0119-000624>



PROVINCIAL UPDATES-CONTINUED

- Students attending post-secondary public school in BC may be able to access financial assistance through a \$3.5 million program announced today. The non-repayable emergency assistance can be used to help with a broad range of costs. Information is available through school financial aid offices. College of the Rockies contact: financialaid@cotr.bc.ca.
- For people in B.C. currently receiving income assistance or disability assistance, the Province will temporarily exempt federal employment insurance benefits for three months, including the new \$2,000 Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).
- For those on income assistance or disability assistance who are not eligible for the emergency federal support programs, including the CERB, the Province will provide an automatic \$300-monthly COVID-19 crisis supplement for the next three months.

Links:

- COVID-19 Update: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0019-000626>
- Premier's Task Force Established: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0046-000618>
- Emergency Supports for Vulnerable Populations: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020SDPR0012-000620>
- Action to Support Essential Service Providers: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AG0029-000616>
- Financial Assistance for Post-Secondary Students: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0018-000615#>



NEW FEDERAL UPDATES

- Canada received shipment of over one million masks last night, in addition to the 10 million masks that have come in over the past couple of days. In addition, hundreds of thousands of face shields have been ordered from Bauer Hockey.
- While BC and Alberta are the two provinces with detailed modeling and analysis of different scenarios related to COVID-19, the Federal Government is working to compile all the provincial and federal statistics and release modeling for the entire country.
- The Canadian Public Health Officer, Dr. Tam, has appealed to Canadians to double-down on efforts to stay home and be strict in physical distancing. Today she called on media users and influencers to spread **#stayhome**.
- The Government has provided guidance on services and functions deemed essential to Canada's critical infrastructure during COVID-19:
- The Minister of Indigenous Services has announced they are in the process of transferring \$305 million directly to indigenous communities across Canada and hope to have funds dispersed within the next week. For the next 6 months, at a minimum, the Federal government will continue to cover the eligible costs to first nations child and family services to youth who would have otherwise aged out of care.

Link to Critical Services Guidance: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/04/government-canada-provides-guidance-on-services-and-functions-deemed-essential-to-canadas-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19.html>

Link to Canadian Epidemic Curve Page: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html>

**LEARNING RESOURCES**

The Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN) has been working with local school districts and community partners to create a short list of free & fun outdoor learning activities, games & projects for families. Some of the resources to keep learning from home engaging and fun, include:

- 5-minute field trips
- At-home planting activities
- Nature learning activities
- Science World education activities

A bit of outdoor time these days (with proper physical distancing) is important to both mental and physical health.

New resources will continue to be added, and each week CBEEN will highlight activities on their Facebook and Twitter pages.

Link: <https://kbee.ca/families>



Shaw Cable is inviting everyone to Happy Hour - a new show on Shaw Spotlight to share smiles, laughter by featuring content created by viewers.

If you have a funny, uplifting or entertaining video, send the link to your video and a brief description to ShawSpotlightSocial@sjrb.ca

Videos must be clean (no swearing, no alcohol or drug consumption, nothing inappropriate). What a great way to lift spirits!

To receive the Regional Snapshot directly to your inbox, sign up for the email updates here:

https://www.rdek.bc.ca/about/email_group_sign_up

The Regional Snapshot is produced daily Monday-Friday (Saturday if there is a news conference).

Phone Numbers:

- **1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319)**. The line is for non-health COVID-19 information. It's open seven days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. MST
- **811** - dial 811 for health related information on COVID-19
- **211** - seniors looking for help (or volunteers willing to help), can call 211 or visit: <http://www.bc211.ca/>
- **Crisis Line: 1.888.353.2273** - free, anonymous support
- **Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868**

Online Links:

- **[COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool & App](#)** - use this online tool to complete a self-assessment & get updates.
- **[BC Centre for Disease Control](#)** - includes information on their testing protocols.
- **[Interior Health](#)** - links to the latest Interior Health information.
- **[Government of Canada](#)** - statistics, travel info and economic and financial supports available federally.
- **[Province of BC Information Hub](#)** - links to Provincial supports for non-health information (childcare, travel, employee/employer resources, business support)