

# COVID-19

## REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

MARCH 30, 2020

### LOCAL UPDATES

- Interior Health (IH) has identified a case of COVID-19 at the Elkford Drug Store, 4 Front St., Elkford, B.C.
- Public Health routinely follows up with confirmed cases and close contacts directly to advise on self-isolation. As an additional precaution, **Interior Health is asking those who visited Elkford Drug Store on March 17 to self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the time of their visit.**
- As long as customers of the pharmacy remain healthy and do not develop symptoms, they can return to their routine activities 14 days after the date of their visit.
- If customers develop respiratory symptoms they need to self-isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days from the time their symptoms develop and until symptoms resolve.
- For information on self-isolation, see the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) guide to self-isolation if you do not have COVID-19 or respiratory symptoms
- **Interior Health announced today it will close the emergency department at the Elkford Health Centre effective April 1, 2020 until the COVID-19 pandemic is over.** The Elkford Health Centre remains open for scheduled primary care appointments (including new telehealth appointments), lab and X-ray services.

LINK- IH Release re: COVID-19 / Elkford Drug Store: [https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/PSA\\_COVID19\\_Exposure%20at%20Elkford%20Drugstore\\_30March2020.pdf](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/PSA_COVID19_Exposure%20at%20Elkford%20Drugstore_30March2020.pdf)

### NEW PROVINCIAL UPDATES

- Dr. Henry reiterated that BC is not through the “storm” yet and that we have not reached our peak in BC.
- The next two weeks remain critical in BC and people are being asked to take the physical distancing extremely seriously - no group gatherings as any size groups is a risk.
- The Province has named 19 major hospitals as primary sites, which would be the first tasked with taking care of coronavirus patients in the event that the number of cases surges. The primary site in our region is East Kootenay Regional Hospital.
- There are 4,233 vacant acute care beds in BC right now.
- All health authorities are doing pre-planning for additional off site beds.
- Pay parking has been suspended at all primary sites including East Kootenay Regional Hospital.
- The BC Coroner’s Service confirmed the first COVID-19 death in the community today in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.
- Today, BC received over 1,000,000 surgical masks with more PPE expected to arrive soon.
- BC is still conducting over 3,000 tests per day.
- The Minister of Citizens’ Services has signed a Ministerial Order that enables the broader use of communications tools for health-care workers and other public-sector staff responding to the COVID-19 state of emergency. The order is in effect until June 30, 2020.



### Current Situation in BC

(as of 1:30pm PST March 30, 2020)

#### Cases:

- Total confirmed cases in BC: 970
- New cases since Saturday March 28: 86
- Hospitalized cases: 106
- Intensive Care: 60
- COVID-19 Related Deaths: 19
- Recovered: 469

#### Confirmed cases by region:

- Vancouver Coastal Health: 472
- Fraser Health: 323
- Island Health: 67
- Interior Health: 94
- Northern Health: 14

Link to full news release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0115-000594>

### PROVINCIAL UPDATES - CONTINUED

- The Province has provided guidelines for industrial work camps to support their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to keep workers safe.
- The Province is providing a \$3-million emergency grant from the Community Gaming Grants program to Food Banks British Columbia:
- Young adults between the ages of 19 and 27 who are enrolled in the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program will continue to receive financial support despite school closures and other training program interruptions caused by the current pandemic.

#### Links:

- **PSA on Elkford COVID-19 Case:** [https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/PSA\\_COVID19\\_Exposure%20at%20Elkford%20Drugstore\\_30March2020.pdf](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/PSA_COVID19_Exposure%20at%20Elkford%20Drugstore_30March2020.pdf)
- **IH PSA on Elkford ER Closure:** <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/Elkford%20Emergency%20Department%20service%20change.pdf>
- **COVID-19 Update:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0017-000597>
- **Support for Food Banks:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0049-000583>
- **Order Enabling Wider Use of Technology in public sector:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CITZ0005-000588>
- **Guidelines for Industrial Camps:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0115-000594>



## NEW FEDERAL UPDATES

- Canada is currently one of the top countries of the world in testing per capita.
- To date, 220,000 tests have been administered with 3% of tests returning as positive for COVID-19
- There have been 6,671 cases in Canada and 66 deaths.
- The Federal Government provided more detailed information on the 75% Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy announced last week which is available for businesses who've experienced more than a 30% decrease in revenue:
  - The number of employees/size of company does not matter.
  - Non-profits and charities also eligible.
  - Government will cover up to 75% of salary for the first \$58,700 up to \$847 a week per employee, whether you are open or not.
  - They are asking employers to top up additional 25%, especially if open.
- The Canadian Armed Forces has 24,000 active and reserve members and are in pre-planning to provide support if they are called upon. They currently have 3 main objectives:
  - Support efforts to slow the spread.
  - Provide support to vulnerable communities.
  - Assist provinces and territories with logistics, including directly helping municipalities if needed.
- At this time, the Federal Government has received no formal request for armed forces assistance.

### LINK TO CANADA'S COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

## TIPS FROM THE BC CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL ON DEALING WITH YOUR GROCERIES

- Wash all fruits and vegetables before putting them away or consuming them.
- There are no special precautions needed when storing food; however, it is recommended that you wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after putting away food you have purchased and before preparing food.
- Use good hygiene practices when handling food. Avoid bare hand contact. For example, use utensils, deli napkins, or dispensing equipment to handle food. The BC Centre for Disease Control recommends frequent hand washing with plain soap and water to reduce risk of transmission if you are preparing foods.
- At the grocery store, only handle (touch) the fresh fruits and vegetables that you plan to buy (as a courtesy to other customers) and to limit any hand transfer of germs.
- It is key to wash your hands after putting your groceries away.

Link to the BC Centre for Disease Control Food Safety Page: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/food-safety>

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING REMINDERS:

- Minimize close contact with others.
- Stay 2 metres (6 feet) apart outside our homes.
- NO group activities (like youth hanging out, adults getting together for a visit).
- Go outside and get fresh air. Just make sure you are keeping a safe distance from others while doing so.
- **Stay home unless you need to make essential trips to the store, etc.**

## 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 additional support at this time, 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)