

### LOCAL UPDATES



- Area transfer stations and landfills are open with normal operating hours. Reuse Centres, blue textile collection bins and community bottle collection bins are closed at all applicable transfer stations and landfills.
- The scale at the Cranbrook Transfer Station is being repaired. Traffic is being routed around the scale until the work is complete. Visitors to the site are asked to slow down and take extra care.
- The RDEK, municipalities and First Nations communities in the region continue to coordinate through the Regional Emergency Operations Centre to work collectively as a region, and share information and resources.
- We are also working with other key stakeholders like the School Districts, Emergency Services, Emergency Management BC and Interior Health to provide support and coordination as required.

### NEW PROVINCIAL UPDATES



- The Province has extended the state of emergency to support the COVID19 response to April 14, 2020.
- Key Provincial message today: We are at a critical juncture in our provincial response. Everyone has a part to play. We must all do the right thing and be 100% committed. No one is immune, but everyone can make a difference.
- The Province has launched a new process to help essential service workers find child care in their communities. Essential workers can now fill out a form to identify their need for urgent child care for children up to five years of age. Child Care Resource Referral (CCRR) centres in 38 communities will act as community-based hubs to arrange for licenced child care spaces.

#### Links:

- **Link to COVID-19 Update:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0019-000606>
- **Provincial State of Emergency Extended:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0018-000607>
- **Essential Workers / Child Care:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CFD0017-000599>

### FOCUS ON LOCAL BUSINESS



- A **big shout out** to the many businesses that are taking extra steps to ensure the safety of staff and shoppers with sanitizer at the doors, tape marks on the floors to keep shoppers safely distanced, new packaging options and increased cleaning practices (to name a few). **Your efforts are noticed and appreciated.**
- While many businesses have had to temporarily close, others are able to stay open with alternate methods of delivery. Check out the local resources in your area to find a list of locations that can help provide food or delivery service (or other services). Two examples include:
  - **Cranbrook Tourism:** <https://cranbrooktourism.com/about/emergency-resources>
  - **Closed But Open!** - an online hub for East Kootenay shops offering safe options to get you what you need: <https://closedbutopen.com/>

### Current Situation in BC

(as of 3pm PST March 31, 2020)

#### Cases:

- Total confirmed cases in BC: 1,013
- New cases since March 30: 43
- Hospitalized cases: 128
- Intensive Care: 61
- COVID-19 Related Deaths: 24
- Recovered: 507

#### Confirmed cases by region:

- Vancouver Coastal Health: 476
- Fraser Health: 348
- Island Health: 67
- Interior Health: 107
- Northern Health: 15

**Link to full news release:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0018-000604>

### NATIONAL FILM BOARD OFFERS FREE ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- The National Film Board of Canada (NFB), is offering FREE online learning resources that will give Canadian families and teachers new tools
- Parents can access a special collection of acclaimed NFB films and learning resources at [NFB.ca/education](http://NFB.ca/education).
- All teachers across Canada, from now until June 30, 2020, have free access to CAMPUS, the NFB's online media portal.
- The NFB Education screening room will be featuring daily films and learning resources chosen by the NFB Education team for K-12 level children, including:
  - Films and playlists for primary and secondary-level students;
  - Educational interactive projects or apps;
  - 225 minutes of groundbreaking experiences from the NFB's immersive and interactive Ocean School, transforming how we learn about and engage with the ocean. Ocean School is the result of a dynamic partnership between the National Film Board of Canada, Dalhousie University and the Ocean Frontier Institute
- **Link to National Film Board Release:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/national-film-board/news/2020/03/with-kids-home-from-school-national-film-board-of-canada-offers-free-online-learning-resources-for-parents-and-teachers.html>



## NEW FEDERAL UPDATES

- Across Canada as of the morning of March 31, there are 7,708 positive cases and 89 deaths related to COVID-19.
- Adults under the age of 40 account for 10% of hospitalizations.
- The Canadian government is allocating \$2 million to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, face shields, gowns, ventilators, test kits, swabs and hand sanitizer. This will include bulk purchases for the provinces and territories.
- The Federal government has signed supply contracts with three Canadian companies to make critical medical supplies: Thornhill Medical (Ventilators), Medicom (surgical & medical masks), Spartans Bioscience (testing kits).
- Public Services and Procurement Minister Anita Anand reported the government ordered 60 million N95 masks, 157 million surgical masks, and over 1500 ventilators. Deliveries are expected to begin this week.
- \$50 million has been made available in funding for members of the Next Generation Manufacturing Supercluster to develop and scale-up new, in-demand technologies, equipment, and medical products.
- A number of companies are stepping up to donate medical equipment and needed supplies:
  - Alibaba donated 500,000 surgical masks and 10,000 testing kits
  - Bombardier, 3M, and Metronique have committed to produce PPE
  - Toys-R-Us pledged to provide baby monitors so there can be better communication between patients and health care professionals, and reduce travel within facilities
  - Ford, Toyota, GM, Linamar, Magna, Shell, Canada Goose, Suncor & Home Depot have donated PPE and health supplies to hospitals and medical facilities

### Link to News Release:

- <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/31/prime-minister-announces-new-partnerships-canadian-industries-fight>

## NEED HELP OR WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP OTHERS?

If you need help with pick up of groceries, prescriptions or other essentials, OR if you are a volunteer willing to help others in need, there are a number of grassroots initiatives popping up. Here are a few:

- **Seniors:** call 211 or visit: <http://www.bc211.ca>
- **Elk Valley:** <https://www.evcst.com>
- **Sparwood:** <https://sparwood.ca/blog/News/2020-03-24-EmergencyPrepVolunteerRegistry>
- **Columbia Valley:** <https://volunteercv.ca/organizations/columbia-valley-covid-19-community-response>
- **Cranbrook Area (Facebook):** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/239248060594167>

## QUICK TIP: GROCERY SHOPPING

One of our readers shared this great tip:

- When buying produce that isn't packaged, use the in-store plastic produce bags to handle it, and pick it up. Simply open the bag, put your hand inside, and use the second hand to hold the open ends at your wrist. Use your plastic covered hand to grab the produce, and turn the bag around to contain it.



## 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)