

PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING

There are thousands of people within the region who are taking extraordinary measures and making personal sacrifices to follow all COVID-19 orders, guidelines and recommendations. The municipal, First Nation and regional local governments thank you. **You are making a difference.**

To those who are not heeding the advice and recommendations, the time to act is NOW. Whether it's a bonfire in a cul de sac, group walk in the community forest with ten friends, multiple families getting together for a party, kids hanging out in groups, group camping, or people choosing to take non-essential travel, these actions need to stop. This is not the time for complacency. This is about doing what is right to protect ourselves, our families and our communities.

NEW VIRTUAL CLINIC ESTABLISHED

- A virtual assessment clinic opens tomorrow (April 10) for **people in the Cranbrook area with no family doctor**. The clinic hours are 1pm-5pm, 7 days per week. To learn more, call 250-426-4890 or visit:

<https://www.divisionsbc.ca/east-kootenay>

- For patients in the East Kootenay who already have a **family doctor**, contact your clinic to make a virtual or in-person appointment.



LOCAL UPDATES

- Teck Coal Limited has closed all of its private land holdings to overnight camping effective immediately. This includes Grave Lake Campground. Access to lands is still permitted on a day-use basis as long as people adhere to physical distancing guidelines consistent with direction from our Provincial Health Officer, including limiting unnecessary travel, and act in a socially and environmentally responsible manner on the lands. More information, updates and maps of Teck lands are available at: www.teck.com/coalmaps.
- The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has announced the closure of all of its conservation properties and trails to the public until further notice. In the East Kootenay, this includes: Dutch Creek Hoodoos; Luxor Linkage Conservation Area; Columbia Lake – Lot 48; Marion Creek Benchlands; Kootenay River Ranch; Elk Valley Heritage Conservation Area; and all conservation lands in the Wycliffe conservation corridor. You can take a "google" hike by visiting natureconservancy.ca/trekker
- The RDEK's regional parks will not be opening as regularly scheduled and all amenities (such as picnic sites and outhouses) are closed. No group activities are permitted. Users may still utilize the sites for a walk as long as physical distancing is strictly obeyed.
- NorthStar Rails to Trails is open for users; however, washrooms are closed. There will be maintenance work April 14-17, so portions of the trail may be temporarily closed near St. Mary's River bridge and Wycliffe Park Road. A bypass will be available.

Current Situation in BC

(as of 3:00pm PDT April 9, 2020)

Cases:

- Total confirmed cases in BC: 1,370
- New cases since April 8: 34
- Hospitalized cases: 132
- Intensive Care: 68
- COVID-19 Related Deaths: 50
- Recovered: 858
- Long term care/assisted living homes affected: 20

Confirmed cases by region:

- Vancouver Coastal Health: 626
- Fraser Health: 508
- Island Health: 82
- Interior Health: 130** (no new)
- Northern Health: 24

News release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0129-000675>

NEW PROVINCIAL UPDATES

- 10 of the 132 people in hospital in BC are in Interior Health.
- The BC and AB Health Ministers have issued a joint statement urging everyone to stay home: *"These are extraordinary times. A global pandemic puts us all at risk – and we all must stay home, stay in our communities and stay at a safe physical distance from others when outside. Let us be clear: staying home means no travelling – especially across our borders."*
- The Provincial Health Services Authority has released the BC COVID-19 Testing Guidelines. [CLICK HERE](#) to view guidelines.
- A new process to support health care workers to work at a single facility includes a new labour agreement that ensures workers at health authority, non-profit and private facilities receive an equitable wage and scheduling stability.
- Renters who are experiencing a loss of income during the COVID-19 pandemic can now apply for the Province's new temporary rental supplement. The program will provide \$300 per month for eligible households with no dependents and \$500 per month for eligible households with dependents.
- Mental Health programs and services are being expanded to offer more virtual options. The focus will be on adults, youth and front-line health care workers and increase access for Indigenous communities and those living in rural and remote parts of BC.

Links:

- COVID-19 Update: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0019-000676>
- Stay Safe, Stay Home - by Dr. Henry: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0019-000671>
- Joint Statement - BC/AB Ministers of Health: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0127-000665>
- Details on New Virtual Mental Health Supports: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MMHA0009-000655>
- Temporary Rental Supplement: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0050-000669>

All municipalities within the region have activated Emergency Operations Centres through the Regional Emergency Operations Centre. The regional district, municipalities and First Nations communities are working in this integrated model to coordinate and communicate throughout this pandemic response.



NEW FEDERAL UPDATES

- The Federal Government has released new national modeling on the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the country, the new projections anticipate between 22,580 and 31,850 positive cases by April 16.
- The modelling is being used to help inform public health action and indicate collective efforts can have a direct and significant impact on the epidemic trajectory.
- The projections emphasize the effectiveness of - and importance of following - the many control measures being taken across the Country. For example, with regard to infection rates, the projections show:
 - With Stronger controls: 1%-10%
 - With Weaker Controls: 25%-50%
 - With No Controls: 70%-80%
- Starting today, small business owners can apply for support from the Canada Emergency Business Account through their banks and credit unions. Eligible small business and non-profit organizations can get interest-free loans of up to \$40,000. If the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022, 25% of it will be forgiven, up to \$10,000. These loans are fully funded by the Government of Canada.
- Stats Canada released the employment figures for March. Over one million Canadians lost their jobs in March. The unemployment rate is 7.8%.

LINKS:

- **Statement from Chief Public Health Officer on National Epidemic Modelling:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/04/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-the-release-of-national-modelling-on-the-covid-19-epidemic-in-canada.html>
- **Using Data and Modelling to Inform Public Health Action:** <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/using-data-modelling-inform-eng.pdf>
- **Statement on Canada Emergency Business Account:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/news/2020/04/minister-morneau-and-minister-ng-mark-the-launch-of-the-canada-emergency-business-account.html>

AIRPORT REMAINS OPEN

- Canadian Rockies International Airport is open. WestJet is currently running two flights per day between Cranbrook and Calgary. As of April 16th, WestJet will be reducing their schedule to one flight per day between Cranbrook and Calgary. The Airport is currently open from 0900 to 1830, 7 days per week.



As of April 16th the hours will be revised to:
Sundays 1100-1400, Monday - Thursday 0900-1730,
Fridays - 0900-1400, Saturdays – closed.

TRANSFER STATIONS / LANDFILLS OPEN, DELAYS POSSIBLE



- Area transfer stations and landfills are expected to be busy this weekend and in the days ahead. Although the sites remain open with regular hours, there may be a short delays at staffed facilities as we limit the number of vehicles on site to encourage physical distancing. Please obey all instructions from site attendants while on site.
- The Reuse Centres, textile donation bins and beverage collection bins remain closed at our staffed sites.

Phone Numbers:

- **1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319).** The line is for non-health COVID-19 information.
- **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)