

NEW LOCAL UPDATES



- A staff member of Kootenay Street Village in Cranbrook has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The staff member is in self-isolation at home. No residents have been affected to date. The risk of exposure to residents from this case is assessed to be low. Interior Health and the operator are taking steps to protect the health of all staff, individuals in care and families.
- The Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) continues to operate. Some of the activities currently being undertaken in the REOC include:
 - hosting weekly coordination calls with municipalities, First Nations, and other stakeholders such as school districts and Interior Health
 - hosting weekly coordination calls between all emergency services agencies in the region to identify challenges and solutions
 - coordinating a regional approach to identify and resource personal protective equipment (PPE) needs
 - working in support of Interior Health to provide facilities and services if required
 - preparing for seasonal hazards such as freshet and wildfire
 - updating Emergency Support Services (ESS) plans to ensure procedures are in place to keep volunteers and evacuees safe in the event there is a separate emergency requiring an evacuation
 - determining status of social support agencies, identifying gaps and helping to match needs with resources
 - ensuring education and enforcement of PHO's direction is consistent and coordinated throughout region
- Teck Resources has announced the creation of a \$20M fund in support of social initiatives and increased healthcare capacity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the procurement and donation of 1-million masks for B.C. healthcare workers.

Links:

- Kootenay Street Village: www.rdek.bc.ca/web/EmergencyInfo/IB_COVID19_Cranbrook_16Apr_2020.pdf
- Teck Fund: www.teck.com/news/news-releases/2020/teck-announces-20-million-covid-19-response-fund

NEW PROVINCIAL UPDATES



- A new B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service will serve as a single point of contact for businesses throughout the province looking for information on resources available during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The provincial government introduced temporary changes to B.C.'s property tax framework to provide financial support for businesses and local governments earlier today. Among the changes introduced, local governments will have the ability to borrow, interest-free, from their capital reserve funds and municipalities will be able to access school tax revenue collected for the Province until the end of the year.
- The Province has launched Here2Talk, a new mental-health counseling and referral service for post-secondary students. The service offers confidential, free single-session services by app, phone or online chat, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. visit here2talk.ca or call 1-877-857-3397

Links:

- COVID-19 Update: news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0020-000707
- Business Support Service: news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020JEDC0008-000700
- Business/Local Gov Relief: news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0020-000703
- Here2Talk: news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0024-000698

Current Situation in BC

(as of 5:45pm PDT April 16, 2020)

Cases:

- Total confirmed cases in BC: 1,575
- New cases since April 15: 14
- Hospitalized cases: 120
- Intensive Care: 56
- COVID-19 related deaths: 78
- Recovered: 983
- Long term care/assisted living homes affected: 26

Confirmed cases by region:

- Vancouver Coastal Health: 670
- Fraser Health: 630
- Island Health: 94
- Interior Health: 149
- Northern Health: 32

News release:

news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0020-000708

PROVINCE-WIDE BURNING RESTRICTIONS SET TO START

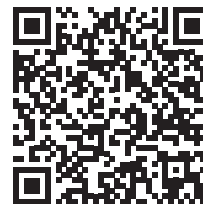


Effective noon (PDT) today (April 16, 2020), most open burning activities will be prohibited across BC, including: Category 2 and 3 open fires; Resource Management open fires; the use of fireworks and sky lanterns; and the use of burn barrels. **Campfires** (0.5m x 0.5m) **will be allowed** at this time. All rural RDEK properties are affected by these restrictions.

Regulations for **backyard fires** vary between municipalities, so please contact your local municipality for verification.

LINKS:

- Open Burning Restrictions: www.bcwildfire.ca
- Open Fire Regulations Definitions



SCAN FOR
A BRIEF
MESSAGE
from
CHAIR
ROB GAY

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



- 487,000 people have been tested in Canada, with 29,826 confirmed cases and 1,048 deaths (50% of deaths are linked to long-term care homes, 93% of deaths are over 60 years old).
- Canada Emergency Business Account offering \$40,000 loans was launched last week, so far 195,000 loans have been approved. Businesses who spent between \$20,000 and \$1.5M in annual payroll in 2019 will be eligible
- Federal Government plans on introducing Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance. Offering loans, including forgivable loans, to commercial property owners who provide rent rate cuts to small businesses during April, May and June. Details to come.
- Canadian companies continue to step up to produce medical supplies and equipment. *Geometric Energy Corporation* will produce millions of nitrile gloves for healthcare workers *Irving Oil* will be producing hand sanitizer. These are just two examples of the numerous Canadian companies who have stepped up in order to produce medical supplies

LINKS:

- **Canada Emergency Business Account:** pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/16/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-small-businesses
- **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance:** www.cfb-fcei.ca/en/media/news-releases/cfb-statement-ceba-expansion-and-canada-emergency-rent-assistance-program

THREE CHEERS!



The Kimberley Front Porch Project was a 2.5 week long fundraiser for the Kimberley Food Bank. It raised an incredible \$11,000, and helped to connect the community visually through online imagery.

Photographer Chelsea Boyd Gibson walked to over 140 homes in the Kimberley area taking photos of people and families from a safe distance with telephoto lenses. Emily Gilmar coordinated the organization of the project, and Nicole Leclair joined in to tackle more of the business photos. These ladies created a supportive and positive online focal point for the community to tune into.

NEED HELP OR WANT 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:

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

SOME HELP COPING DURING THESE TOUGH TIMES



Finding it difficult to cope during COVID-19? The **Wellness Together Canada** mental health and substance use support portal gives access to psychological and social supports for you or someone you know. ca.portal.gs

Help with: **Building Resilience** **Financial Stress** **Improving Relationships**
Handling Anxiety **Taking Charge of Stress** **Handling a Loved One's Illness**

SUPPORT RESOURCES

Wellness Together Canada: ca.portal.gs
Anxiety Canada: www.anxietycanada.com
Bounce Back: www.bouncebackbc.ca/

Phone Numbers:

- **1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319).** The line is for non-health COVID-19 information.
- **811** - for health related information on COVID-19
- **211** - seniors looking for help (or volunteers willing to help), can call 211 or visit: 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)