

NEW PROVINCIAL UPDATES



- A reminder that any BC resident who was at Kears Lake project, near Fort McMurray, Alta., from March onward is ordered by the provincial health officer to immediately self-isolate for 14 days and contact your primary care provider, 811 or local public health team.
- An outbreak has been identified at the United Poultry Company in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. To date, 28 employees have been confirmed positive through active contact tracing by public health. Close contacts have been notified and ordered to self-isolate. The plant has been closed to slow further transmission, and public health teams are providing support.
- Dr. Henry and Minister Dix again emphasized that we are at an important crossroads in BC with our COVID-19 response. Every day counts, and every action each of us takes makes a difference. While advanced planning is underway for the recovery phase, possibly starting as early as mid-May, the key priority remains on ensuring the transmission of the virus and new cases have lessened, so that everyone can return to work safely.
- Provincial emergency COVID-19 funding will be distributed through Community Living BC (CLBC) to ensure people with developmental disabilities stay supported and safe during the pandemic. As part of the \$5-billion COVID-19 Action Plan, up to \$35.6 million will be available over three months from CLBC to support service providers to continue delivering residential services, including group homes, home sharing and supported independent living that about 9,500 adults with developmental disabilities count on.

Provincial News Links:

- **COVID-19 Update:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0020-000736>
- **Emergency Supports for Home Share, Support Service Providers:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020SDPR0013-000730>

FOCUS ON LOCAL BUSINESS



While many businesses have had to temporarily close, others are open and relying on community support. A few local business directories include:

- **Fernie:** <https://tourismfernie.com/news/coronavirus-covid-19>
- **Cranbrook:** <https://cranbrooktourism.com/about/emergency-resources>
- **Columbia Valley:** <https://www.cvchamber.ca/columbia-valley-covid-19-coronavirus-business-database/>
- **Closed But Open!:** <https://closedbutopen.com/>

When we are through this critical time, and all businesses can begin reopening, we will all have a role to play in helping support them.

Current Situation in BC

(as of 3:00pm PDT April 21, 2020)

Cases:

- Total confirmed cases in BC (since January): 1,724
- New cases since April 20: 25
- Hospitalized cases: 109
- Intensive Care: 51
- COVID-19 related deaths: 87
- Recovered: 1,041
- Long term care/assisted living homes affected: 20
- Acute-care unit outbreaks: 1

Confirmed cases by region:

- Vancouver Coastal Health: 707
- Fraser Health: 715
- Island Health: 109
- Interior Health: 153
- Northern Health: 40

News release:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0020-000735>

NEW FEDERAL UPDATES

- Today, the Federal government launched the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy calculator to support employers as they prepare to apply for the CEWS, Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). It includes information and instructions about who can apply for the subsidy, how eligibility is assessed, and how the subsidy is calculated as well as a printable statement feature that employers can use to view their claim at a glance.
- Prime Minister Trudeau has announced an investment of \$350 million to support vulnerable Canadians through charities and non-profit organizations that deliver essential services to those in need. It will support a variety of activities, including: increasing volunteer-based home deliveries of groceries and medications, providing transportation services, like accompanying or driving seniors or persons with disabilities to appointments, providing additional training, supplies and supports to volunteers.

Federal News Links:

- **Additional Support to Help Canadians in Need:** <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/21/prime-minister-announces-further-support-help-canadians-need>
- **Wage Subsidy Calculator for Employers:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-launches-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy-calculator-for-employers.html>

We have been receiving a number of calls and inquiries regarding golf courses and their operation during the pandemic. While golf courses are allowed to open in BC, Interior Health has provided specific guidance related to changes in regular operations that are required in order for them to operate safely during COVID-19.

All businesses that are still operating are expected to:

- Limit the number of people using the golf course (including employees) to less than 50 people
- Exclude employees and customers who have travelled in the last 14 days
- Exclude employees and customers who are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19
- Not allow people to congregate in groups
- Maintain physical distancing
- Clean and sanitize common touched surfaces often (regularly throughout the day)
- Provide signage to remind people of the requirements, encourage good handwashing and respiratory hygiene
- Ensure washrooms remain available for use, are cleaned/sanitized a couple of times a day, and are well stocked

Further considerations for golf courses include:

- Keep playing groups at least one hole apart (i.e. reduce number of available tee times to decrease number of players on the course)
- Signage / posters on best practices (physical distancing, don't play if ill, use good hygiene practices wash hands, have extra hand sanitizer dispensers, practice respiratory hygiene, etc.)
- Regular disinfection of high touch surfaces – e.g. disinfect carts after each use
- Do not allow shared carts
- Do not provide dine-in service (take-out & delivery only)
- Provide methods to ensure 2m separation in clubhouse at check-in prior to tee time. Limit numbers entering buildings and restrict other activities to ensure guests are moved through the facility promptly.

This information is subject to change as the situation evolves. For more information, call 1-888-COVID19.

THREE CHEERS!

People have been using technology in creative ways during the pandemic. Whether it is to re-tool their businesses, find new ways to connect virtually, or develop new products that can potentially help. Two such examples include:

- Local chef Rob Davidson who has “The Socially Distant Cooking Class” on Facebook. His cooking classes have now surpassed 20,000 members. Aside from providing lessons, the page has created a sense of community for members.
- Glenn Johnson, of Kootenay Kwik Print, is using his 3-D printer to make face shields at his home. He was inspired to help local health care workers, which include members of his family. The face shields are currently being assessed by Interior Health.

Finally, three cheers to the local media who continue to tell our collective stories.



Link to Alberta COVID-19 Information / Statistics:

- COVID-19 Info for Albertans: <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>

Important 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: <http://www.bc211.ca/>
- **Crisis Line: 1.888.353.2273**
- **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