

LOCAL UPDATES

The East Kootenay Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) remains active in support of the COVID-19 response in the region. Some REOC activities underway this week include:



- Continuing communication with the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre and Interior Health.
- Providing coordinated, regional information to the public and stakeholders.
- Hosting weekly regional and stakeholder virtual meetings.
- Developing a coordinated regional strategy for when restrictions are relaxed and we can eventually re-open public amenities.
- Training for Emergency Support Service (ESS) volunteers on a new ESS system for registering evacuees. This new online platform will help streamline the registration process and protect ESS volunteers and the public during evacuations.
- Preparedness planning in the event we experience seasonal spring flooding.

NEW PROVINCIAL UPDATES



- There are 10 confirmed positive cases in BC connected to the Kearl Lake project in Alberta.
- As of today, two employees have been confirmed positive at Superior Poultry in Coquitlam, and 35 employees have now been confirmed positive at United Poultry in Vancouver.
- 78 inmates and staff are confirmed positive at the Mission Institution federal correctional centre.
- BC Transit has extended its fare-free transit and rear-door boarding until May 31, 2020. The extension means customers don't need to purchase monthly passes or other fares for May.
- The Justice COVID-19 Response Group and Cross-Jurisdictional Technical Advisory Group being established to support government response to the impact of restrictive public health measures on the justice system. These advisory groups will help government support courts and tribunals in delivering services as effectively as possible during the pandemic and in minimizing its impact on the justice system.
- BC's provincial health officer has released an order for industrial camps and guidelines to protect people working in the silviculture sector during the pandemic and help contractors, tree planting operators and their employees reduce the risks of COVID-19.

Links:

- **COVID-19 Update:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0020-000758>
- **Provincial Justice System Advisory Groups Established:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AG0032-000747>
- **Guidelines for Silviculture Industry:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FLNR0020-000752>
- **Industrial Camps Order:** <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-industrial-camps.pdf>

Current Situation in BC

(as of 3:30pm PDT April 24, 2020)

Cases:

- Total confirmed cases in BC (since January): 1,853
- New cases since April 23: 29
- Hospitalized cases: 96
- Intensive Care: 41
- COVID-19 related deaths: 98
- Recovered: 1,114
- Long term care/assisted living homes affected: 20
- Acute-care unit outbreaks: 3

Confirmed cases by region:

- Vancouver Coastal Health: 767
- Fraser Health: 772
- Island Health: 114
- Interior Health: 158
- Northern Health: 42

News release:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0020-000756>

NEW FEDERAL UPDATES



- The Federal government has reached an agreement in principle with all provinces and territories to implement the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program for small businesses. The program will lower rent by up to 75% for the months of April, May and June for eligible small businesses that have been affected by COVID-19.
- Canadians Troops are deploying to Ontario and Quebec to assist in care facilities. Military personnel will support the ongoing operations of some of the hardest hit long-term care homes in both provinces.

Links:

- **Partnerships with Provinces/Territories on Rent Assistance**
<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/24/prime-minister-announces-partnerships-provinces-and-territories>
- **Provincial Release on Rent Assistance:**
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0024-000754>

IMPROVING RURAL CONNECTIVITY

The \$50-million Connecting British Columbia program includes a funding stream to help internet service providers with immediate network equipment upgrades to rapidly improve capacity and internet speeds in under-served rural, remote and indigenous communities throughout the province.

Link: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CITZ0008-000751>

KOOCANUSA AREA CAMPING, ORV USE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE



The provincial order restricting overnight camping and motorized recreation - including use of off-road vehicles - throughout the entire Koocanusa Recreation Strategy area **remains in effect**.

These restrictions apply to:

- all users (including residents)
- on all crown land within the strategy area
- to all Recreation Sites and Trails BC campgrounds within the strategy area.

Although overnight camping is prohibited in this area, people may still use designated roads and trails on a day-use basis as long as they adhere to physical distancing guidelines and other restrictions, including Motor Vehicle Act and ORV Act, that may be in place.

To learn more: <http://www.koocanusarecreation.ca/koocanusa-recreation-strategy>

Private campgrounds are not included in the order and are permitted to open provided they can meet the protocols set out by the Province. Private campsite operators located within the Koocanusa Recreation Strategy Area participated in a conference call with the MLA and RDEK Area B Director this week. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and in the interest of the safety of all, most have agreed to remain closed until after the Victoria Day long weekend in May.

Three cheers to those campsite operators that have collectively made the decision to delay opening for a few weeks.

CANADIANS SALUTE FRONT LINE WORKERS

#CanadaTogether is a national initiative to inspire, educate & engage Canadians.

One of their national initiatives is "O Canada!" Thank our front line workers by recording yourself singing the national anthem Sundays @ 12 noon, then email your video tribute to hello@canadatogogether.com. They will combine those shared posts and make compilation videos. The plan is to post weekly videos of Canadians throughout the country singing the anthem. To learn more: <https://canadatogogether.com/en/>



SAFE AND LEGAL USE OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES



While there is an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) restriction in the Koocanusa Recreation Strategy Area, local enforcement officials are noticing an increase of ORVs operating illegally in other areas of the region - often on public roadways.

You cannot operate an uninsured vehicle on publicly maintained roads in BC. This includes quads, side-by-sides and other ORVs. You must abide by all the requirements in the ORV act, including (but not limited to): the ORV must be plated and registered, and you must be carrying I.D.

If you are operating on a forest service road, you must have liability insurance and if you are crossing a publicly maintained road, you have to have ICBC insurance on the ORV.

For more information on ORV use and a link to the ORV Act, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/crown-land-water/crown-land/crown-land-uses/off-road-vehicles>

NO BURNING



A reminder that most outdoor burning is banned across the East Kootenay, including: Category 2 and 3 open fires; Resource Management open fires; the use of fireworks burn barrels.

Campfires (0.5m x 0.5m) **are allowed** at this time; however, are not permitted in the Cities of Kimberley and Fernie.

To learn more visit: www.bcwildfire.ca

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)