

LOCAL UPDATES

The RDEK, municipalities and many First Nations in the East Kootenay are working collaboratively to coordinate re-opening plans for local amenities and services to align with the Provincial Government's Restart Plan.



The Province has targeted Tuesday, May 19 for implementation of Phase 2 of the plan.

The Restart plan is aimed at a cautious, thoughtful and measured reopening in BC. Local and First Nations governments are currently reviewing the details of the plan and seeking additional clarity where required. The Regional Emergency Operations Centre Advanced Planning Unit is coordinating meetings early next week as the East Kootenay plans together for the eventual re-opening of parks and open spaces, facilities and services. We will continue to provide updates as details are finalized.

NEW PROVINCIAL UPDATES

- There are now 17 positive cases in BC connected to the Kearl Lake plant in Alberta.
- There is one new positive case in Interior Health today and 2 people remain hospitalized with COVID-19 related illness.
- Of the 180 positive cases to date in Interior Health, 165 people have recovered which represents a 92% recovery rate.
- There are now 61 positive cases at Superior Poultry in Coquitlam. There has been no change in the number of confirmed positive cases at Fraser Valley Specialty Poultry, United Poultry in Vancouver or at the Mission Institution federal correctional centre.
- **We continue to be in Phase 1** of the BC Restart Plan. Phase 2 will not begin until after the Victoria Day long weekend.
- Physical distancing is here to stay. We must continue to keep a safe physical distance from anyone outside of our household. This will remain the case even once we move into Phase 2.
- In its first week, more than 400,000 British Columbians have been approved to receive the \$1,000 BC Emergency Benefit for Workers.
- The April 2020 BC Labour Force Statistics have been released. B.C.'s unemployment rate rose by nearly two-thirds from March to April, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The provincial jobless rate jumped from 7.2 per cent to 11.5 per cent last month, according to the latest Labour Force Survey data. More than 396,500 jobs were lost across the province over the past two months. Just over 264,000 positions were eliminated in April alone.
- The centralized page of federal and provincial supports for BC residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be updated and includes a link to the Emergency Benefit for Workers.
- With the release of BC's Restart Plan, Translink (which provides transit services in the Lower Mainland) will suspend service reductions planned to begin on May 18 and rescind layoff notices issued to approximately 1,500 employees.



Links:

- **COVID-19 Update:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0026-000849>
- **Supports Summary Page & Emergency Benefit for Workers Application:** <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/financial-benefits>
- **Translink to Ensure Service in Lower Mainland to Support BC Restart:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0053-000840>

Current Situation in BC

(as of 3:00pm PDT May 8, 2020)

Cases:

- Total confirmed cases in BC (since January): 2,315
- New cases since May 7: 29
- Hospitalized cases: 73
- Intensive Care: 20
- COVID-19 related deaths: 127
- Recovered: 1,579
- Long term care/assisted living homes affected: 16
- Acute-care unit outbreaks: 5

Confirmed cases by region:

- Vancouver Coastal Health: 866
- Fraser Health: 1,089
- Island Health: 125
- Interior Health: 180
- Northern Health: 55

News release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0026-000847>

COVID-19 DASHBOARD PROVIDES UPDATED DATA DAILY

As of 5:30pm today, there have been 104,994 tests in BC. 15,112 of those test have been completed in Interior Health, including 374 new tests.

The Provincial COVID-19 Dashboard is the best resource for current statistics on COVID-19 in BC. You can see the big picture for all of BC or filter the results by Health Authority.

To view the dashboard: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>

It is the Provincial Health Authority's policy to release case numbers only by Health Authority (the East Kootenay is within the Interior Health Authority). They are not providing more specific geographic information (such as the East Kootenay). To view Dr. Henry's rationale for this approach visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/no-boundaries-with-covid-19>

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE

BC Parks will reopen many of its parks, facilities and boat launches for **day-use on May 14**. Some facilities like playgrounds, hot springs, and halls will remain closed.

On **June 1**, BC Parks will re-open most provincial campgrounds and back-country camping.

To ensure physical distancing, you may notice some changes in campgrounds, including additional spacing between campsites and limitations on the number of guests in campgrounds. Campgrounds that require visitors to use shared cooking facilities and backcountry cabins will remain closed.

Visit www.bcparks.ca for details



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

- As of 7:01pm EDT, 1,034,905 Canadians have been tested for COVID-19. There have been 66,434 positive cases and 4,569 deaths. Approximately 44% of people who tested positive have now recovered.
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says the federal government's emergency wage-subsidy program will be extended beyond its early-June endpoint with details to be released next week. The program covers 75 per cent of worker pay up to \$847 a week to try to help employers keep employees on the job in the face of steep declines in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Canada lost almost two million jobs during the month of April. Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey data says the total number of jobs lost during the pandemic is more than three million. The unemployment rate rose to 13 per cent as the full force of the pandemic hit, compared with 7.8 per cent in March.
- A new Action Committee has been formed to provide national leadership to support the work of provincial and territorial governments, individual courts, and court administrators in progressively restoring the full operation of Canada's courts. While the court system has continued to operate during the pandemic, court operations have been significantly curtailed.
- More details were provided today on the \$500 million funding announcement April 17 for the culture, heritage and sport sectors. Canadian Heritage is working closely with its partners to distribute the funds as quickly as possible using existing channels and has begun contacting partner organizations.

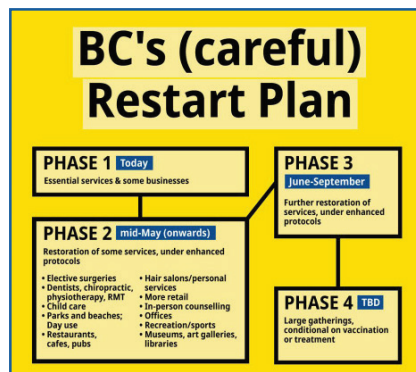
Link:

- Statistics Canada April Labour Stats: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/200508/dq200508a-eng.htm>
- Action Committee on Court Operations: <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-justice/news/2020/05/chief-justice-of-canada-and-minister-of-justice-launch-action-committee-on-court-operations-in-response-to-covid-19.html>

PROVINCIAL RESTART PLAN

The Province has launched a Restart Plan web page with details and links to information on all aspects of the Plan. Additional resources will continue to be added to this page as BC moves forward with its gradual re-opening.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>



EASTER WEEKEND ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

The BC Conservation Officer Service has provided statistics on the enforcement actions under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) over the Easter weekend in the Kootenai Strategy Area.

They completed 349 total Compliance Verification checks, 79% of those were BC Residents.

Here is a breakdown of some of the enforcement actions:

- Total Enforcement Action = 71
- Total Eviction Advise = 29
- Total FRPA Section 58 Enforcement Action = 30
 - 23 warnings and 7 charges were issued
 - 43% of this enforcement action was dealing with BC Residents
- Total Other Enforcement Action = 12
 - 11 Off Road Vehicle Act charges, 1 warning
 - 23% of these other actions was dealing with BC Residents

The total Compliance Rate was 80%.

- BC Resident Compliance Rate = 92% (275 BC residents inspected)
- Non-Resident Compliance Rate = 59% (74 non-residents inspected)

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

RESOURCES

Phone Numbers:

- 1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319).** Non-health COVID-19 information. Open 7 days/wk, from 8:30am to 9pm 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.
- BC COVID-19 Dashboard** - a great source for up-to-date information and statistics.
- 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** - (info on childcare, travel, employee/employer resources, business support)

Link to Alberta COVID-19 Information / Statistics:

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