



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-001

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Date: April 8, 2020

Subject: **COVID-19 Update #2**

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## **RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board receive the April 8, 2020 "COVID-19 Update #2" for information.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses found mostly in animals. In humans, they can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). The disease caused by the new coronavirus has been named COVID-19. While many of the characteristics of COVID-19 are still unknown, mild to severe illness has been reported for confirmed cases.

The following is a snapshot of the current situation and some measures that have been put into place by local, provincial, and federal governments.

### **British Columbia (as of April 7, 2020 according to [BC CDC](#))**

- **1,291 confirmed cases**
  - 805 recovered
  - 43 deaths
  - Cases by region:
    - 458 in Fraser Health
    - 128 in Interior Health
    - 79 in Island Health
    - 23 in Northern Health
    - 603 in Vancouver Coastal Health

### **Canada (as of April 7, 2020)**

- Confirmed cases = 17,897
- Deaths = 381

### **Worldwide (as of April 7, 2020 from John's Hopkins University)**

- Confirmed case = 1,450,353
- Deaths = 83,568
- Recovered = 308,617

*\*\*New items since March 25, 2020***BC's COVID-19 Response Plan (general)**

- Relief on [BC Hydro bills](#) for individuals and businesses; 1% decrease in Hydro rates, 3 month credit for homeowners, and 3 months of no payments for small businesses closed due to COVID-19
- 50% cut in school property taxes for businesses
- [\\$5 million](#) for provincial, disability, and multi-sport organizations
- Launch of the [COVID-19 Supply Hub](#), which is an online platform to co-ordinate, source and expedite medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) for provincial health authorities
- \$3 million for Food Banks BC
- \$50 million to the United Way for support for seniors
- \$300 monthly crisis supplement for 3 months for those on Income and Disability Assistance, and those receiving the seniors supplement or comforts allowance for those in care
- [ICBC payment deferrals](#) up to 90 days

**Provincial Health Officer/Ministry of Health**

## Orders (written)

- [Movement Limitation of Long Term Care Facility Staff – March 27, 2020 \(PDF, 222KB\)](#)
- [Information Collection from Long Term Care Facility Staff – March 26, 2020 \(PDF, 214KB\)](#)

## Orders (verbal)

- Farmers markets may continue to operate but must only sell food and must put in place measures for social distancing and cleaning

## Guidance documents issued

- [Compliance and Enforcement, Brief – March 31, 2020 \(PDF, 317KB\)](#)
- [Compliance and Enforcement – March 31, 2020 \(PDF, 561KB\)](#)
- [Industrial Camps – March 30, 2020 \(PDF, 418KB\)](#)
- [Retail Food and Grocery Stores – March 28, 2020 \(PDF, 275KB\)](#)
- [Manufacturing – March 25, 2020 \(PDF, 515KB\)](#)
- [Mining and Smelting – March 25, 2020 \(PDF, 517KB\)](#)

**Provincial**

- Provincial State of Emergency extended until April 14, 2020
- Open [burn ban issued](#) for all category 2 and 3 fires, effective April 16, 2020, to reduce the demands on wildfire resources
- All BC Parks closed for the Easter weekend

**Northern Health**

- Resources and information for community partners who work with vulnerable populations developed
- Temporary suspension of pay parking at Northern Health sites

- Restrictions on the Northern Health Connections bus – only available for essential medical appointments

### **Peace River Regional District**

- Activation of the Emergency Operations Centre (Level 1) in order:
  - to continue to monitor the situation
  - to continue work on business continuity plans for essential services
  - to effectively respond to requests for information from the Province of BC
- Closure of the following facilities to the public:
  - PRRD Dawson Creek & Fort St John offices
  - PRRD Warehouse
  - Charlie Lake Fire Hall
  - North Peace Leisure Pool
  - Chetwynd Recreation Centre
  - Buick Creek Recreation Grounds
  - Cache Creek Community Hall
  - Golata Creek Community Hall
  - Goodlow Community Recreation Grounds
  - Halfway Graham Recreation Grounds
  - Jackfish Community Hall
  - Kelly Lake Community Centre
  - Moberly Lake Community Hall
  - North Peace Fall Fair Grounds
  - Osborn Community Hall
- I.T. has successfully rolled out a work-from-home technical strategy that provides remote access to secure PRRD digital resources, which includes:
  - virtual private networking
  - reallocation of network capacity
  - full implementation of tele-conference tools and video conference services
  - Planned telephone system upgrade complete
- Board Meetings are now live streamed, via the PRRD Facebook page, to provide remote participants and the public with real-time information.

### **Order 6 – Local Authority Resources & Plans**

#### **6(1) Identifying resources and facilities**

- Province has requested that municipalities provide this information at this time, and are not seeking information from regional districts; PRRD is following up with PREOC on some rural options

#### **6(2) Critical supply & service needs**

- Province made a request to local authorities to report on PPE & cleaning supplies (quantities of 100 or greater); PRRD does not have that quantity for reporting
- Further requests may be made; waiting on Province to issue next request

**6(3) Reviewing emergency plans and business continuity plans**

- Business continuity plans for essential and critical services as required under s 6(3)
  - o Reviewing templates and guides provided by the Province; requested PREOC to arrange for a webinar on this; conducting research to assist all departments with this task
  - o Reviewing and updating PRRD emergency plan
  - o Developing an in-house “virtual EOC” and investigating other virtual platforms
  - o Creating an inventory of contract personnel to supplement PRRD staff in the case of a wildfire or flood activation
  - o Gathering information from contractors on business continuity plans

**Order 7 – Continuity of Local Authorities****7(1) & 7(2) – Mutual Aid**

- Updating/establishing mutual aid agreements for Chetwynd, Moberly and Hudson’s Hope; and Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe & Toms Lake
- Investigating options for mutual aid agreements for water and/or waste water between PRRD and municipalities

**Government of Canada**

- [Emergency order issued](#) under the *Quarantine Act* requiring travelers arriving in Canada to self-isolate for 14 days
- [Wage subsidy program](#) for small businesses, non-profits and charities to assist with up to 75% of wages, to a maximum of \$847/week per employee
- Applications for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit opened on April 6, 2020
- Federal Government entering into agreements with manufacturers to produce and supply critical medical equipment

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board receive the April 8, 2020 “COVID-19 Update #2” for discussion.
2. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Partnerships
  - ☒ Collaboration with Local and First Nations governments
- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery
  - ☒ Enhance Emergency Planning and Response Capacity
- ☒ Advocacy
  - ☒ Emergency Response Capacity for Local Governments

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

No direct financial impact currently identified.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

Staff continue to share important updates from the Government of BC, BC Centre for Disease Control, Northern Health in addition to updates from the Regional District on cancellations of meetings, impacts to service levels, etc.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None

External Link:

1. [COVID-19 Update #1](#)