



INFORMATION BULLETIN

COVID-19

MARCH 10, 2020

The Town of Claresholm is committed to sharing information with our residents regarding COVID-19. On all matters of health, the Town of Claresholm follows protocols instituted by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Health Services.

"We take this extremely seriously, and are doing all we can to minimize risk and to keep Albertans safe. While some may be concerned, I remind Albertans that the risk is still low in our province. We are already taking the necessary precautions to prevent the infection from spreading."

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health

1. Media updates about COVID-19
 - <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=68750C4B8AAC3-D7CA-CD62-4060157763C349A5>
2. Updates from Alberta Health Services (AHS)
 - www.alberta.ca/covid19
 - www.ahs.ca/covid
3. What should I do about an upcoming event/conference in my community? Should I cancel?
 - Mass gatherings can contribute to the transmission of respiratory pathogens, such as COVID-19. While currently there are no formal restrictions on mass gatherings, it is important for each community and/or event organizer to undertake a risk assessment to determine what makes sense in terms of moving forward or not.
 - Since mass gathering events are generally unique, the advice varies regarding which measures should be undertaken. Decisions regarding mass gatherings can be considered on a continuum from no changes needed, to enhanced communication to attendees, to risk mitigation strategies being employed without cancelling the event (such as distancing measures and making hand hygiene supplies available), through to postponement or cancellation of the event.
 - Public health authorities and event organizers must work together to assess the situation.
 - The Public Health Agency of Canada will be posting a risk assessment tool in the coming days to assist in the decision-making process.
 - Alberta Health will link to this tool when available and it will be found at www.ahs.ca/covid
4. What guidance can be given in regards to how to plan for a COVID-19 outbreak for my organization?
 - Business continuity planning is vitally important to prepare critical operations for any potential interruption.
 - For COVID-19, Alberta Health has posted resources in the "Information for Employers" section of the website at www.alberta.ca/covid19.

5. What kind of stockpiling of supplies do I need?
 - Similar to the messaging for emergency preparedness, individuals and organizations should prepare to have 72 hours worth of essentials on hand.
 - Hoarding large amounts of supplies not only impacts the larger society by not allowing manufacturers to keep up with demand, but can be expensive and potentially wasteful if products are not used before their shelf life expires.
 - Visit www.alberta.ca/covid19 and go to the “prevent and prepare” tab.
 - To build a 72 hour E-Prep kit visit <https://www.alberta.ca/build-an-emergency-kit.aspx>

6. What does the health system need from individuals?
 - The health system needs residents to stay informed about the Alberta situation via the Alberta Health Services or Alberta Health COVID-19 websites.
 - Reference Alberta Labour “Respiratory Viruses and the Workplace” website <https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/bh022> for workplace guidance.
 - Review existing business continuity plans to assess if disruptions from staff absenteeism have been considered, especially for critical operations.

7. What can the public do to protect themselves?
 - Wash your hands often and well,
 - Cover your cough (cough into your elbow, not your hands),
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands,
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick,
 - Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched,
 - Stay at home and away from others if you are feeling ill.
 - Individuals with concerns about symptoms should call Health Link (811) and avoid hospitals and health care centres.
 - If severely ill, call 911 and inform the operator that you suspect COVID-19.

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