



*Serving Our Community*

April 20, 2020

## **Emergency Management Update**

### **Current Situation**

The Town of Black Diamond renewed its State of Local Emergency (SOLE) on April 19, 2020, and continues to support provincial efforts to curb the COVID 19 pandemic. The Emergency Coordination Centre continues to work with the province and Alberta Health Services to secure resources and coordinate with the province. This planning is underway, to assist as needed, should the number of confirmed cases grow beyond the estimated ability of the health care system to manage.

As of April 18 there were 2,562 confirmed cases of COVID- 19 within Alberta. 1,162 recoveries have also been reported, which is great news. 450 of these cases are of unknown origin.

Please continue to do your part by being active and diligent participants in the front line against this disease – *you can prevent the spread*. By remaining vigilant; isolating if you are ill, washing your hands often, not touching your face and maintaining 2 meters of separation if you must leave your home you are not only obeying the Orders issued by the Chief Medical Officer, you are helping yourself and others to stay safe and healthy.

As our medical professionals begin to learn more about COVID-19, concerns of asymptomatic spread appear to be increasing. This makes social distancing your best protection. However, if you wish to use masks, please take a few moments to research and use the best method of masking for you and your family.

Many of our residents, while taking their own safety precautions, are helping others to isolate, making sure they have everything they need to do so. The Town sincerely thanks everyone for helping to flatten the curve, and for helping others to isolate in safety. We are a great community, and we'll make it through this extraordinary time together.

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## Information

The Town of Black Diamond's [COVID-19 information](#) webpages are full of links to:

- federal and provincial government financial assistance programs,
- services and assistance offered by the Town of Black Diamond,
- local businesses and services that are available,
- restrictions for gatherings, etc.,
- and other general information as we all navigate life with COVID-19.

Please visit the site regularly to stay well informed before you make decisions that affect your family and your community.

In visiting the Town's COVID-19 webpages, you will also find [Mental Health & Emotional Support](#) information. If you are feeling overwhelmed or overcome by stress, please visit this page to find supports.

## Care Facilities

Hospitals, nursing homes, seniors lodges, long-term care facilities and residential shelters have restrictions in place regarding visitation, PPE, etc. These residences are fully closed to all visitors, including family members. Recognizing that this is difficult for everyone and that families need to stay in touch despite restrictions, many of them have tried to create ways for virtual visits to happen. You can learn more about the new restrictions and processes on the Province of Alberta webpage for [Congregate Care Facilities](#).

## Emergency Services

First Responders are not immune to the impact of a pandemic, especially if they are not able to isolate or socially distance themselves. All agencies have robust plans in place to provide the care and response as required. In following the guidelines of the Chief Medical Officer of Health's office, you may now see *all first responders* wearing masks at all times, as they are not able to physically distance at work.

### Community Peace Officers

The province has implemented penalties for those who fail to adhere to the Orders of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Community Peace Officers' authorities have been expanded during the public health emergency to assist in flattening the curve. Among other things, CPOs can prohibit mass gatherings (now maxed at 15), attendance at recreational facilities, ensure closure of bars/nightclubs, ensure that newly returned travellers, those who are confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 and those who are exhibiting symptoms are isolating as required.

### Fire Department

The Fire Department has enhanced its response model to ensure that they are able to continue to provide uninterrupted service during the pandemic.



## **Municipal Office**

Our top priority is to assure the health, safety and well being of our residents and to maintain essential services.

The Black Diamond Municipal Office will be closed to the general public as of Monday April 13, 2020, in support of flattening the curve. Access will be by appointment only and for regularly scheduled deliveries (health checks will apply).

In order to support physical distancing, we encourage residents to use alternative means to contact us.

For payments, please:

- Use online banking options; add the Town of Black Diamond as a payee;
- Pay by cheque and use the drop box located outside the municipal office upper level entrance, 301 Centre Ave, Black Diamond AB T0L 0H0;

For all other enquiries please contact us at 403-933-4348, email us at [info@town.blackdiamond.ab.ca](mailto:info@town.blackdiamond.ab.ca), or visit our website at [www.town.blackdiamond.ab.ca](http://www.town.blackdiamond.ab.ca).

## **Utility Bills**

Information on Utility bill options, including payment deferral, is available on the Town website. If you require assistance please contact the office by phone or email.

## **Public Works**

The Public Works department is functioning as normal, with no expected changes to the provision of water, sewer and garbage collection services. The Recycling Depot in Turner Valley has been temporarily closed due to COVID-19. Some vendors provide curbside recycling services for those that wish to investigate alternative options.

## **Events / Campground**

In response to the Chief Medical Officer of Health's orders for restricted gatherings of people, the Town of Black Diamond has cancelled all of its events scheduled up to July 15<sup>th</sup>. This includes both the Diamond Valley Parade and the Diamond Valley MusicFest. This was a difficult decision for the Town, as the events are always popular and well-attended, but the gathering restrictions must be of primary concern to everyone.

The Bob Lochhead Lions Memorial Park (Lions Campground) has been closed until further notice.