



Serving Our Community

April 24, 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 24, there were 4,017 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Alberta. Within that number, 1,397 recoveries have also been reported, which is excellent news.

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.

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 of Black Diamond 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.

As our medical professionals learn more about COVID-19, concerns of asymptomatic spread appear to be increasing. *Physical distancing is still your best protection*. However, if you cannot accommodate the requirements for physical distancing, due to your work environment or other essential requirements, you may wish to use masks. Please take a few moments to research [the use of non-medical masks](#) for you and your family.

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Gathering Restrictions Remain in Effect

On April 23, 2020, the Chief Medical Officer of Health confirmed that Orders [restricting gatherings to no more than 15 people](#) will apply to all summer events and festivals in Alberta. Any allowable events must maintain physical distancing by staying two (2) metres apart and should provide proper sanitary measures for attendees, such as hand sanitizer or handwashing facilities.

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 support.

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 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 see *all first responders* wearing masks, as they are not able to physically distance on the job.

Community Peace Officers

The Province has implemented penalties for those who fail to follow 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 it can continue to provide uninterrupted service during the pandemic. The Province has placed a fire ban in the Forest Protection Area of Alberta, attempting to reduce the number of human-caused wildfires during the pandemic. *The Town of Black Diamond does not currently have a fire ban in place* but continues to monitor the weather and surrounding conditions. Fire Bans within Alberta are posted to the [Alberta Fire Bans](#) website for easy public access to that information.

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, or visit our website at www.town.blackdiamond.ab.ca.

Utility Bills – Deferral Option

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. Check the Town's website for contact information.

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 15th. This includes both the Diamond Valley Parade and the Diamond Valley MusicFest. Canada Day Fireworks are currently being reviewed to determine if appropriate safety measures can be implemented, or if rescheduling is more appropriate. These are difficult decisions, as our summer events are popular and well-attended, but the safety of our community must be of primary concern to everyone.

Due to the Chief Medical Officer of Health's statement on April 23rd that the gathering restrictions will continue to apply to all summer events, the Town will provide further information on any events scheduled following July 15th.

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