



Serving Our Community

May 1, 2020

Emergency Management Update

The Town of Black Diamond renewed its State of Local Emergency (SOLE) on May 1, 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. Plans are in place 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 30, there were 5,355 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Alberta. Within that number, 2,161 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.

The Town of Black Diamond sincerely thanks everyone for their ongoing considerations in helping to flatten the curve, and for helping others to isolate in safety. Although the Province has launched a plan to restart the economy, it remains vital that we continue to do our part to make sure this plan is successful. We do this by continuing to provide physical distancing and following the orders of the Chief Medical Officer of Health as we begin to venture out again in support of our local businesses.

We are a great community, and we'll make it through this extraordinary time together.

“Opening Soon – Alberta’s Relaunch Strategy”

On April 30, 2020, Premier Kenney released the first information regarding the expectations for restarting Alberta’s economy. The document “[Opening Soon – Alberta’s Relaunch Strategy](#)” provides some of the preliminary information about what businesses and services can restart initially.

P.O. BOX 10, BLACK DIAMOND, ALBERTA T0L 0H0

TELEPHONE (403) 933-4348 • FAX (403) 933-5865

Email: info@town.blackdiamond.ab.ca • web page: www.town.blackdiamond.ab.ca



The Town of Black Diamond has been working with its local businesses to help ensure that those able to remain open were able to advertise their hours of operations and any changes to their regular services. The Town will continue to work with those businesses as well as those who begin to reopen to ensure they have access to available supports to help them restart as successfully as possible.

All businesses must be aware of and follow any restrictions or limitations that may be imposed on their services. These might include:

- eligibility to reopen,
- the number of customers permitted at any given time,
- health and safety practices (i.e. sanitizing, physical distancing),
- recommendations from a governing professional body, etc.

Staff are participating in the [Foothills Business Recovery Task Force](#) to help ensure that our local businesses get the best “hand up” to navigate this difficult period of recovery. All business owners are encouraged to visit the Town’s website for all of the latest information available as we undertake the economic recovery of our community.

Masking

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 considerations, you may wish to use masks. Some businesses, as they begin to reopen, may choose to require masking of their employees and/or their customers. Check websites or call ahead before visiting businesses or services to ensure you are prepared for any safety requirements they may have in place. Please take a few moments to research [the use of non-medical masks](#) for you and your family.

Gathering Restrictions Remain in Effect

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has confirmed that Orders [restricting gatherings to no more than 15 people](#) will continue to apply to all summer events and festivals in Alberta, as well as through the economic relaunch.

Care Facilities

Hospitals, nursing homes, seniors’ lodges, long-term care facilities and residential shelters have restrictions in place regarding visitation, PPE, etc. Westwinds Communities has secured the High Country Lodge and Glen Mead Park properties with fencing and signage to ensure reduced risk of exposure to COVID-19 to their residents. Please respect this restriction and help to protect our most vulnerable population.

Care facilities that are able to meet physical distancing requirements may now allow residents who are not in isolation to visit **outdoors** with a designated essential visitor. Recognizing that separation is difficult for those in isolation and that families need to stay connected, many residences have created schedules for virtual visits to happen.

Restrictions on visitation at end-of-life have also been changed. Visitors will still be required to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing.

You can learn more about visitation restrictions and processes on the Province of Alberta webpage for [Congregate Care Facilities](#), or you can directly contact the care facility you have interest in to see if you are able to visit your loved one.



Emergency Services

First Responders are not immune to the impact of a pandemic. 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 (currently still maxed at 15), attendance at closed recreational facilities, ensure closure of required businesses, ensure that symptomatic or diagnosed people 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.

Emergency Preparedness

The week of May 3-9, 2020, is Emergency Preparedness Week in Canada. It seems timely to remember that we are moving into a traditional "season" of flood and fire dangers in Alberta. As we are already living through a public health emergency, it seems unfair to remind people that more could still happen, but Albertans in the north will tell you that it can. Our team has been planning and is prepared to take quick action in the event of a flood or fire.

Please take a moment this week to be grateful for our tireless group of first responders. But in thinking of them, do them the best favour you can – make sure you have a [72 Hour Emergency Kit and an evacuation plan](#) for your family.

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 continues to be closed to the general public, in support of flattening the curve. Access is by appointment only and for regularly scheduled deliveries (health checks apply). [Council meetings](#) are currently being held by teleconference.

To make payments, please:

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

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. 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.



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. The cancellations include 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 follow up with further information on any events scheduled following July 15th.

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

General Information and Supports

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.