



Serving Our Community

May 28, 2020

Emergency Management Update

The Town of Black Diamond renewed its State of Local Emergency (SOLE) on May 13, 2020 (for 22 days), 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 May 28, there were 6,955 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Alberta. Within that number, 6,160 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 (6 ft.) of separation if you must leave your home

you are not only obeying the Orders issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, you are helping yourself and others to stay safe and healthy.

The Town of Black Diamond, in conjunction with the CMOH, has opened the Town's playgrounds, skateboard park, pump track and the outdoor gym behind the Arena. At the direction of the CMOH, these facilities are not being sanitized by the Town, and so it is the responsibility of users to be sure to exercise good physical distancing and hand washing before and after use of the facilities. Signage has been provided at all of these facilities.

Alberta's Economic Relaunch

Effective May 14th a number of our local businesses were able to reopen, in accordance with Phase 1 of the province's strategy. The document "[Opening Soon – Alberta's Relaunch Strategy](#)" provides some of the preliminary information about what businesses and services can restart initially. Each business should be providing the public with their plan for maintaining the safety of their customers and staff by following the orders of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. These plans should be available either in their business or on their website.

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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 in Phase 2, to ensure they have access to available supports to help them restart as successfully as possible.

All businesses must be aware of and continue to 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](#) *will continue to apply to all summer events and festivals in Alberta, as well as through the economic relaunch.* Please be sure to check this link regularly to be sure you are following the most up-to-date Orders.

Care Facilities

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 educate or enforce Orders applying to [mass gatherings](#), 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

Please take a moment 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. Our whole emergency response team is prepared to respond to the community's needs for COVID-19, but they are also planning to be able to make a quick response to the traditional seasonal concerns.

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 is planning to re-open its doors on June 1st. If you plan to visit, you will notice sneeze-guards have been installed and extra sanitizing processes are being undertaken. [Council meetings](#) are currently being held by teleconference.

If you want to make payments without coming into our office, 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 and Property Taxes – Deferral Options

Information on Utility bill options, including payment deferral, as well as the property tax payment deferral program, 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 continues to provide your water and sewer services. Currently the Town is launching a [Garbage Collection Pilot Project](#) which will be making some changes to the regular routes and services. The Recycling Depot in Turner Valley has been temporarily closed due to COVID-19. Please continue to check the Town's websites for further updates on the Recycling Depot. Some vendors provide [curbside recycling services](#) for those that wish to investigate alternative options. Check the Town's website for contact information.

Events

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 on hold and 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.

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.

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. As the Province approaches Phase 2 of the 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.