



COVID-19 SUNSHINE COAST EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE BULLETIN

March 23, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

This is the official communication for the Level 2 Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for the Sunshine Coast Regional District, District of Sechelt, Sechelt Indian Government District and Town of Gibsons.

The following information is accurate as of the time of this bulletin.

Number of confirmed cases in BC: 472

Number of cases in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region: 248

There are NO confirmed cases of community transmission of the disease on the Sunshine Coast.

Local news

- Playgrounds in the District of Sechelt, Sechelt Indian Government District and the Town of Gibsons are now **CLOSED**. The Sunshine Coast Regional District is closing playgrounds on Tuesday, March 24. Provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said “parents need to use ‘common sense’ when it comes to kids and playgrounds, children have the potential to spread the virus to parents and grandparents.”
- BC Ambulance: BCEHS is committed to supporting the Sunshine Coast island communities in medical emergencies. They have coordinated with their water taxi service providers and have created a plan to safely transport patients from islands to the mainland or Sunshine Coast. BCEHS is asking individuals requiring medical support to connect with their medical providers as they normally would and call 911 as usual if they need emergency help.
- If the Sunshine Coast is not your primary residence: please consider staying at your primary residence unless you feel that you can help support and enhance essential services, and/or help protect the health and well-being of the community.
- At this time, Food Bank hours on Tuesday, March 24 and Wednesday, March 25 will be from 11am-1pm. Bags of food will be provided outdoors and social distancing measures will be put in place to protect staff, volunteers and community members. As the situation evolves, they will be posting updates on their social media. For Sunshine Coast community Services COVID-19 updates, click [here](#). Or phone 604-885-5881.

- The Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden is now closed, for further updates please visit: <https://coastbotanicalgarden.org>
- Sunshine Coast Tourism is asking tourists to stay home at this time. <https://www.hellobc.com/what-you-need-to-know/>
- With the rapidly rising use of sanitizing and disposable wipes amid the COVID-19 crisis, residents are reminded of the importance of NOT flushing wipes of any sort- including those labelled “Flushable” or “Biodegradable”. We are already seeing impacts on our sewer systems due to the increase in usage of these wipes.

Vancouver Coastal Health

- Starting **TODAY**, a Respiratory Assessment Clinic (for those with moderate respiratory symptoms) will run seven days a week from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. This clinic will be staffed by local physicians and will operate on an appointment-only basis. To book an appointment at the Respiratory Assessment Clinic please call 604-740-1252 any time after 8:30 AM. Walk-in patients are not permitted.
- All personal service establishments such as salons, spas, massage and tattoo parlours are closed.
- Additional protections announced for long-term care residents, more information can be found on the Vancouver Coastal Health website.
- The public is asked to continue to follow the proper protection advice from the health authorities to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Testing is confined to: patients with respiratory symptoms who may require hospitalization, Health Care Workers, Long Term Care Facilities and those identified through clusters of outbreaks
- Some non-urgent surgeries are cancelled.
- Some programs like ambulatory clinics and adult day care have been cancelled.

Please check out the [BC Ministry of Health COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool](#)

Emergency Operations Centre (Level 2)

- The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has activated the Emergency Operation Centre.
- The EOC has staff from all Sunshine Coast municipal governments and key stakeholders to combine resources and share information.
- The EOC meets daily with staff from all Sunshine Coast municipal governments and key stakeholders to combine resources and share information.

Local Government Service/Operations Updates

For information and updates on the status of local government services, please refer to the appropriate website:

District of Sechelt, visit www.sechelt.ca/Live/COVID-19-Municipal-Updates

Town of Gibsons, visit www.gibsons.ca/covid-19

Sechelt Indian Government District, visit www.shishalh.com

Sunshine Coast Regional District, visit www.scrd.ca/covid-19-updates

Protect yourself and others

- Avoid situations that put you in close contact with others. Keep your physical distance to no less than two metres.
- Wash your hands regularly but especially after touching items in public settings.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your arm when coughing and sneezing.

The BC Centre for Disease Control states: “Current information suggests that older people with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and lung disease are at higher risk of developing more severe illness or complications from COVID-19. If you are at higher risk for COVID-19 complications, follow general preventative strategies against infection, and should you become ill, seek medical help early.”

Physical Distancing

We encourage social behaviour by phone, text, message and video chat – or just from a safe distance.

This means making changes in your everyday routines to minimize close contact with others, including:

- avoiding non-essential gatherings
- avoiding common greetings, such as handshakes
- avoiding crowded places such as concerts, arenas, conferences and festivals
- limiting contact with people at higher risk like older adults and those in poor health
- keeping a distance of at least 2 arms-length (approximately 2 metres) from others

When to self-isolate

Self-isolate if you:

- have no symptoms and
- may have been exposed to COVID-19 as a result of:
 - travelling outside of Canada within the last 14 days or
 - coming in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19
- have been asked to do so by your Public Health Authority

Self-isolation means to:

- stay at home
- monitor yourself for symptoms, even if mild, for 14 days
- avoid contact with others

If you develop symptoms, even if mild, stay home, avoid other people and contact your Public Health Authority as soon as possible.

To learn the difference between self-monitoring, self-isolating and isolation, please visit this [Government of Canada Health Services page](#)

Information on financial assistance

This assistance is offered through the federal government 1-800-622-6232

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

Reliable sources of information

Vancouver Coastal Health <http://www.vch.ca/>

BC Centre for Disease Control <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

Public Health Agency for Canada <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

World Health Organization <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Media sources of Information

- Coast Reporter – dedicated COVID 19 section: www.coastreporter.net/covid-19
- The Local Weekly: www.thelocalweekly.ca/
- Eastlink Community TV daily at 5:30, 7:30 and 10:00 PM: www.eastlink.ca/about/about-us/community-tv
- Coast FM: www.mycoastnow.com/category/news/