



News Release

Sunshine Coast Emergency Operations Centre Activated to Coordinate COVID-19 Response

Sechelt, BC – March 16, 2020 – The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), is continuing to address growing concerns about COVID-19.

The SCRD has activated the regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on March 16. Emergency Program personnel are monitoring the situation and are engaged in discussions with federal and provincial agencies.

The SCRD is not the lead agency on the current situation, and will follow guidelines from the federal and provincial governments, as well as Vancouver Coastal Health, and the BC Centre for Disease Control.

Residents are asked to proactively help mitigate the spread and impact of the disease through personal hygiene and regular review of updates through the links below. SCRD staff are working to address any potential disruptions to district services to ensure a quick response as circumstances may change.

Immediate measures to respond to COVID-19 by the Sunshine Coast Regional District:

- Effective March 17, 2020, the following SCRD facilities are closed to the public: all recreation facilities, community halls, sports fields, Field Road Administration Building. SCRD parks remain open for public use; service levels may be reduced.
- Members of the public requiring assistance from staff are asked to email info@scrd.ca.
- Protocols will be put in place to allow some staff members to work from home.
- All Board and Standing Committee meetings will be conducted electronically. The public can view them at www.youtube.com/user/sunshinecoastrd. Agendas will be posted at www.scrd.ca/agendas-2020
- Advisory and Advisory Planning Commission meetings have been cancelled until further notice.
- Garbage will be collected as per regular schedules: www.scrd.ca/curbside-garbage
- Transit will continue as per regular schedules www.bctransit.com/sunshine-coast/home
- Building Permit and Inspection Services will continue.
- Water and Sewer services will continue.
- Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station will remain open.

The focus is on maintaining essential service levels and following the advice of public health officials. Planning is underway to ensure they are prepared if the situation or recommendations change.

Through the EOC, the SCRD is working in collaboration with the Town of Gibsons, the District of Sechelt, the shíshálh Nation and reaching out to other agencies to share information and coordinate messaging for the Sunshine Coast.

SCRD operational updates will be posted at www.scrd.ca/COVID-19-UPDATES and shared through news releases and social media.

For operational updates from:

District of Sechelt, visit www.sechelt.ca

Town of Gibsons, visit www.gibsons.ca

Sechelt Indian Government District, visit www.shishalh.com

For more information on the pandemic, visit the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority or BC Center for Disease Control websites.

Public health officials strongly recommend washing your hands frequently with soap and water, covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, avoiding others who are sick and staying home if you are not well.

Visit healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-covid-19 or call 811 for answers to health questions. There's also information available at canada.ca/coronavirus.ca or at 1-833-784-4397.

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