



## COVID-19 SUNSHINE COAST EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE BULLETIN

March 24, 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 confirmed cases as of 10 a.m. March 23, 2020**

**Number of cases in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region: 248 as of 10 a.m. March 23, 2020**

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, Sunshine Coast Regional District, School District and the Town of Gibsons are now **CLOSED**. The School District has also closed basketball courts.
- **Habitat for Humanity** at Salish Soils has stopped accepting deposit bottle returns. The Return It depot at Claytons is open regular hours (closed on Mondays).
- **shishalh Nation** is no longer doing door-to-door recycling pick up.
- Please wear gloves and wash your hands after you collect your garbage can from the curb as it was just handled by someone else. If possible, sanitize your garbage can prior to returning it to your home. This is because you are essentially “shaking hands” with your garbage truck driver.
- **Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station:** Both facilities are extremely busy and the SCRD is asking customers to limit their visits. Customers should expect delays.
- **Food bank** hours of operation can be found [here](#). Bags of food will be provided outdoors and social distancing measures will be put in place to protect staff, volunteers and community members.
- **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

- A Respiratory Assessment Clinic (for those with moderate respiratory symptoms) is running 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.
- Vancouver Coastal Health is restricting visitors to essential visits only at all facilities including hospitals, community, long-term care, assisted living sites, community health centres and clinics. More details [here](#).
- BC's Ministry of Health has released [a new app](#) for information and alerts on the coronavirus pandemic. The free BC COVID-19 Support app includes: a self-check tool; lists of recommendations from the B.C. Centre for Disease Control Guides on hand washing and social, or physical, distancing; basic information about COVID-19.
- 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 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](http://www.sechelt.ca/Live/COVID-19-Municipal-Updates)

Town of Gibsons, visit [www.gibsons.ca/covid-19](http://www.gibsons.ca/covid-19)

Sechelt Indian Government District, visit [www.shishalh.com](http://www.shishalh.com)

Sunshine Coast Regional District, visit [www.scrd.ca/covid-19-updates](http://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](http://www.coastreporter.net/covid-19)
- The Local Weekly: [www.thelocalweekly.ca/](http://www.thelocalweekly.ca/)
- Eastlink Community TV daily at 5:30, 7:30 and 10:00 PM: [www.eastlink.ca/about/about-us/community-tv](http://www.eastlink.ca/about/about-us/community-tv)
- Coast FM: [www.mycoastnow.com/category/news/](http://www.mycoastnow.com/category/news/)