



COVID-19 SUNSHINE COAST EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE BULLETIN May 12, 2020

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.

Recent Updates

- **Essential Travel Only:** We know many residents on the Sunshine Coast are concerned about non-essential travel to our area, especially as the May long weekend approaches. Premier Horgan's message is very clear - now is not the time to travel to the Sunshine Coast. Health care facilities on the Sunshine Coast have fewer resources than in the bigger centers and are continuing to provide their best service to the community. Other essential services are very limited in providing for the needs of current residents. An influx of visitors at this time will put a strain on all of our local systems. We are asking all Sunshine Coast residents to help spread this message and advise all their family and friends to please stay home this holiday weekend.
- **BC Ferries:** Would you rather spend your day at a park or a ferry terminal parking lot? Be advised that BC Ferries has limited sailings every day and those are deemed as essential. Ferry reservations for the long weekend are basically full. Customers with essential travel needs receive priority consideration. The schedule has a lengthy time gap of about 4.5 hours where no ferries are even sailing. Those that must travel can anticipate long lines, limited amenities, and needing to find a washroom. Or, you can encourage people to stay where they live and enjoy a local park.
- **Provincial Parks:** Most provincial parks in British Columbia will reopen to the public on May 14 under the province's COVID-19 "restart plan." A full list of provincial parks and their anticipated opening dates can be found on the [BC Parks website](#).
- **Sunshine Coast RCMP:** The Sunshine Coast RCMP are taking seriously public statements that have been made about possibly blocking Highway 101 – they will be monitoring the situation during the long weekend. Blocking a highway will not be tolerated and person(s) involved risk arrest and criminal charges. Physical distancing concerns should be recorded and reported to the RCMP, and the public should not take matters into their own hands. The public may see ICBC paper temporary operating permits and paper licence plates in vehicle windows. Some out of province vehicles continue to operate with their provincial plates and can continue to operate until further notice as long as they still carry insurance. If you suspect someone is driving without required licencing or insurance, please contact the RCMP.

- **Community Ambassadors and Bylaw Officers:** Patrols will be occurring throughout the Sunshine Coast to ensure people are aware of the measures that are in place to promote compliance with Provincial recommendations - staying two meters apart for physical distancing, for example, and not gathering in large groups.
- **Business Watch Program:** Program volunteers will be monitoring commercial areas on the Sunshine Coast and they are reporting any suspicious or criminal activity they observe to the RCMP.

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

Emergency Operations Centre (Level 2)

- The Sunshine Coast Emergency Operations Centre (SCEOC) remains activated with meetings occurring daily with staff from local governments and key stakeholders as a means of combining resources and sharing 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

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/departement-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/