

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FIRESMART OPEN HOUSE THAT WAS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> AT 1PM AT THE MYRNA NOYES COMMUNITY HALL HAS BEEN POSTPONED AS PRECAUTION – WE SINCERELY APOLOGISE.**

**THE COUNCIL MEETING FOR MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> WILL GO AHEAD – WE KINDLY REQUEST THAT YOU EMAIL YOUR QUERIES TO [SVSANDYB@XPLORNET.CA](mailto:SVSANDYB@XPLORNET.CA) INSTEAD OF ATTENDING.**

Sandy Beach is taking immediate action, following the direction of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, to assist in containing COVID-19.

**The following are now implemented:**

- Sandy Beach is now a no hand shake community until April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- All unessential staff travel is cancelled.
- The Village is cancelling all events that have more than 50 attendees in village operated facilities until further notice. The Village will re-evaluate on an ongoing basis, with direction from Alberta Health.
- The Village is increasing the frequency and intensity of cleaning in its facilities.

Sandy Beach “are taking a careful, compassionate and caring approach to COVID-19. We have a responsibility to our employees who keep the Village operating and the entire community.”

Alberta Health is the lead agency and we are monitoring and following their instructions daily. Together, our community is committed to minimizing any impacts. We all have a part to play. As a first step, we encourage all residents to practice frequent hand-washing.

Please check our website <https://www.summervillageofsandybeach.ca/> for further updates.

While the threat of contracting the COVID-19 virus **remains relatively low** in Alberta at this time, the virus continues to spread throughout the world and this status can change quickly.

Sandy Beach are monitoring the situation closely and would like to confirm taking the necessary precautions to ensure the reliability of our public service for residents and customers.

Sandy Beach's approach is proactive to reducing exposure and helping protect the health and safety of all employees and residents and customers during this time. Currently the following measures are in place:

- ✓ Given that the municipality provides an essential service; the delivery of services to residents is critical and business functions must and will be maintained. All staff and elected officials are kept abreast of hourly and daily developments on the pandemic and particular here in Alberta.
- ✓ Risk mitigation and communication is essential in dealing with the pandemic.
- ✓ Increased coordination efforts on pandemic response planning has been activated through our Incident Commander.
- ✓ **On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health issued actions specific to self-isolation, travel and social distancing effective immediately.** Sandy Beach is complying with these actions and has modified its activities and direction accordingly.
- ✓ Sandy Beach are staying in close communication with all stakeholders for any necessary response as well as industry associations for any guidance they may provide specific to our sector.
- ✓ Our geographic diversity is a benefit.
- ✓ Employees who are sick are **to follow guidelines set out by Alberta Health Services.**
- ✓ As a municipality additional measures to ensure safety of our communities are in effect.

This is a fluid situation and any business-critical updates is essential and will be maintained.

Communication of the situation as it progresses will be in effect.

**Rudolf Liebenberg, RPP** | Chief Administrative Officer, The Summer Village of Sandy Beach, AB

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# All Residents please note the following

Alberta Health Services currently indicates the limited scenario in which workers should not attend work.

The information quoted below is from the following website:

<https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx#p22780s6>

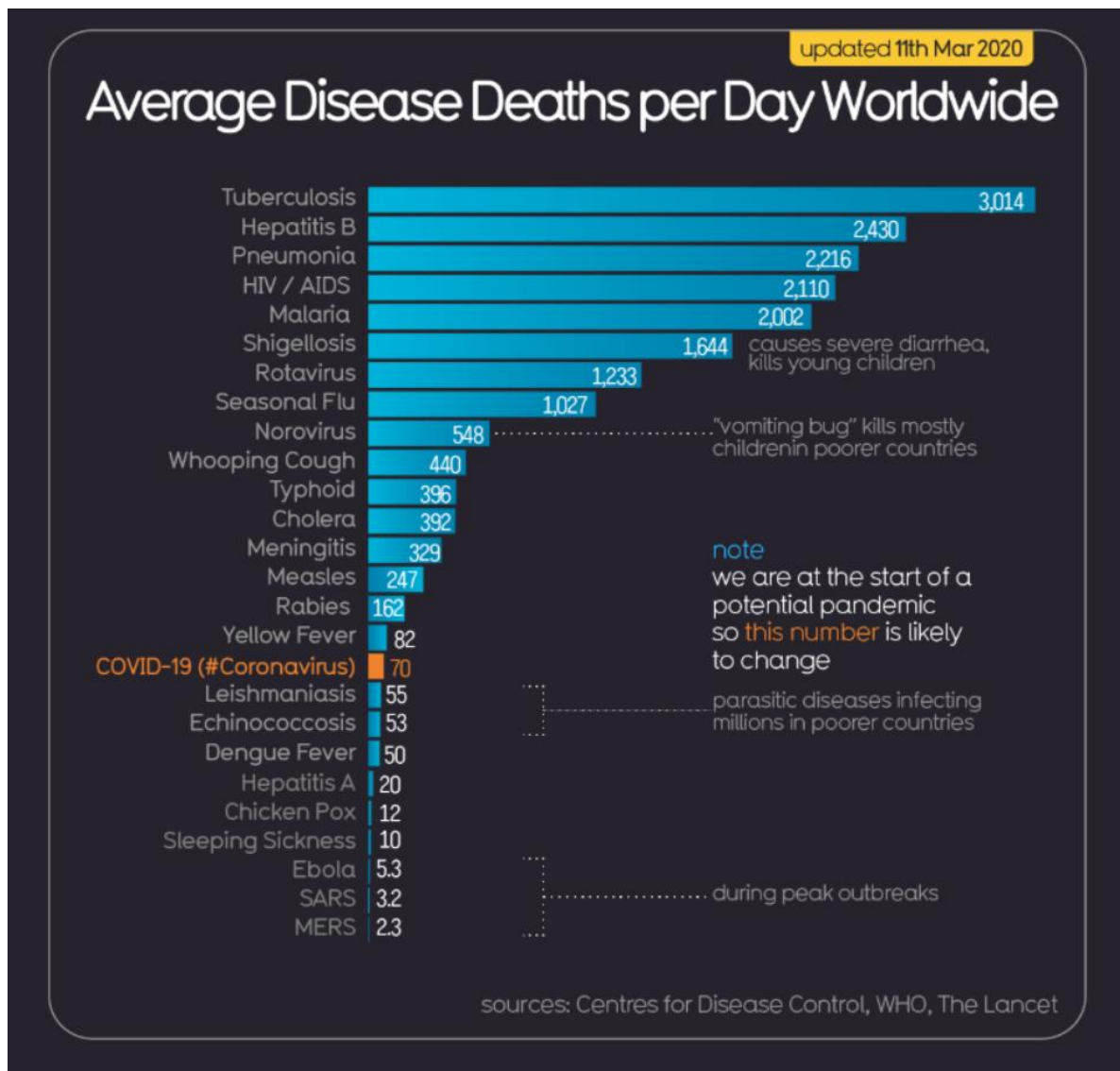
Alberta public health officials are recommending the following actions as a precaution:

- If employees have visited a Grand Princess Cruise, Iran or China's Hubei province in the last 14 days, it is recommended they isolate themselves until two weeks have passed since that visit. This is recommended even if they are feeling well.
- Employees should self-isolate and call [Health Link 811](#) for additional precautions and follow-up testing if they have travelled to anywhere outside of Canada and experienced any of the following:
  - contact with someone who was suspected or confirmed to have the novel coronavirus
  - were in a health-care facility
  - have symptoms, such as cough or fever

If an employee does not meet the exposure criteria above, they do not need to stay away from work, and do not need any testing or a physician's note to attend work.

Please note that business and services at Sandy Beach will continue – please work with us in maintaining a healthy work environment and limit exposure.

Please communicate through email.



**On March 12**, Alberta announced the new public health restrictions in response to COVID-19, please see <http://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus> for the details on this announcement and to keep up to date on announcements that may happen outside this reports distribution time.

**On March 13**, Alberta Health Services launched an [online self-assessment tool](#) to help Albertans determine whether they should get tested for Covid-19.

The below numbers are changing rapidly and may change by the time this report is published.

- The global coronavirus death toll has risen to over 5,500 and the number of confirmed cases has exceeded 155,000. (Source: John Hopkins outbreak tracker)
- Alberta has announced ten (10) new cases today for a total of 39.
- In Canada, there are 193 confirmed or presumptive cases (ON=79, BC=64, QC=17, AB=39, MB=4, NB=2, Sask=2) with 1 death (BC=1).
- In the United States, there are over 2,500 confirmed cases and 51 confirmed deaths.

March 13, the federal Government held a news conference where Ministers announced a series of other new measures to limit the spread of COVID-19:

- International flights will only be permitted to land at a smaller number of airports. Those locations have not yet been announced.
- Boats and cruise ships carrying more than 500 people will be banned from docking at Canadian ports until July.
- **All travellers arriving in Canada from international points are being asked to self-isolate for 14 days as a precaution. People arriving from Hubei, China, Iran and Italy already have been asked to self-isolate.**

March 11, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced COVID-10 response package please see the news release for full details <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/11/prime-minister-outlines-canadas-covid-19-response>

Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw issued the following statement for Albertans on March 13:

"Today, I am here to give an update on COVID-19, and announce that 10 new cases have been confirmed, bringing the total number of cases in the province to 39. Six of the new cases are in Calgary Zone and four are in Edmonton Zone. Two of the new cases, one in Edmonton Zone and the other in Calgary Zone, have been admitted into intensive care. All other new cases are self-isolating at home and expected to make a full recovery. Eight of the cases have been confirmed to be related to international travel or previous confirmed cases. Travel histories include a dental conference in Vancouver, Las Vegas, Switzerland, Germany, Spain and Pakistan. Investigations are ongoing on the remaining two cases.

I know many Albertans may be alarmed at the increasing number of cases in Alberta. As I've said before, we need to get used to a new normal. The reality is that we can expect cases of COVID-19 to continue in Alberta, and around Canada, for months. We have taken aggressive measures to limit the acceleration of spread, but we will not be able to completely stop it. I want

to emphasize that we cannot be complacent. We must be vigilant. And we must look out for each other by practicing good hygiene and employing other preventative measures, such as social distancing where appropriate. We will continue to closely monitor the situation, and take additional steps as necessary. When it comes to protecting the health of Albertans, we will continue to consider all options.

If we are to be successful in preventing the spread, we will also need your help. First, I want to emphasize the importance of following all public health guidance for travel. Travel outside of Canada is not recommended at this time. We also ask that any travellers returning from outside of Canada after March 12 to self-isolate for 14 days after their arrival in Canada. Monitor for symptoms, and should they occur, please complete the online self-assessment tool on the AHS website.

I would like to return to my comments yesterday about schools, and the decision to keep schools remain open at this time. I understand that parents are concerned about their children going to school. And, they, along with teachers and school administrators and boards have questions and concerns. I cannot emphasize enough the time and discussion that continues about this decision. If we do make the decision to close schools, we will be considering long-term closure. This pandemic will not end in a matter of weeks, and there won't be a clear opportunity to re-open schools, likely until September at the earliest. I appreciate that each province is considering its own approach to school closures and this varies considerably. A few provinces have determined to close schools at this time. However, we have also seen other jurisdictions, such as Singapore, be successful in preventing the spread of COVID-19—without having to close schools.

I am carefully monitoring Alberta's situation on a minute-by-minute basis. I am prepared to consider all options including directing the closure of an individual school, a group of schools, a school division, or all in the province if the situation warrants it. In the meantime, we will continue to work with schools, who remain a critical front-line partner in helping limit the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses in educating our children on the importance of good hygiene practices. Earlier today, I had a productive meeting with representatives from Alberta's school boards, school authorities, and education stakeholders to explore ways we can equip them to adjust operations in response to COVID-19. We have shared a new guideline to help schools and childcare centres to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This guideline is also available online. I have already taken feedback from my meeting this morning, and Alberta Health is revising the guideline to address what we heard.

Additionally, starting today, we will be posting the flight information for any flight, or portion of a flight where passengers may have been exposed to COVID-19. We are focusing our public health follow up on local confirmed cases and contacts, and will not be directly contacting Albertans who were on these flights. We are asking for Albertans to help us by checking this information. Online flight information includes the flight number, date and any seats that might be at risk of exposure to COVID-19.

At-risk passengers are encouraged to self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for 14 days after arrival in Canada. Other passengers are not required to self-isolate but should monitor for symptoms as a precaution. Given the rapid spread of COVID-19, we are seeing more and more flights with passengers confirmed to have the virus. If you have recently returned to Alberta by air, I strongly encourage you to visit the Alberta government website and self-isolate if you are found to be at risk of exposure.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention a change in my daily reporting. Given the number of cases daily, we will be reporting more aggregated data online going forward. We will continue to notify you if there are exceptional circumstances, such as if a case involves a high-risk individual. This change will help our surveillance and testing teams to focus their efforts where it matters.

Finally, I would like to thank Albertans for their uptake of the self-assessment tool we announced yesterday. In the span of 24 hours, we have seen well over 300,000 Albertans complete self-assessments. By using the self-assessment tool, you have helped to ease the pressure on Health Link 811 phone lines. Thank you to everyone for doing their part—big or small—to help us keep Albertans safe and healthy. The health of Albertans is, and always will be, our top priority."

For Government of Alberta employees, the Public Service Commission has established an internal web page for questions related to employee questions and resources that can be accessed through the My APS site.