

April 6: COVID-19 update from Vegreville Mayor Tim MacPhee

APRIL 06, 2020

Over the past several weeks, our lives have changed immensely. But, with that change, I've witnessed something truly incredible – the kindness, passion, and strength of our community. The stories of neighbours helping neighbours, people shopping for seniors in our community, residents decorating their windows to brighten the day of those around them, I've never been prouder to say I'm from Vegreville.

I want to make mention of the [Public Health Orders](#) the Government of Alberta has put into place.

- A mandatory 14-day self-isolation for returning international travelers or close contacts of people with confirmed COVID-19.
- A mandatory 10-day self-isolation for people with symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition: cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat; and
- Restrictions on mass gathering and businesses are now legally enforceable and subject to fines. No more than 15 are permitted to gather at any given time.

I understand that these orders are tough to follow, and in many cases, they affect your businesses and livelihood. But we need to heed the warnings from our medical experts if we want to protect the vulnerable in our community and return to our normal way of life. The Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce is working incredibly hard to keep you informed of the business climate in Vegreville and are trying to make it as easy as possible to support local. Please, visit them on Facebook at [VegChamber](#), and whenever, however, support local.

Now I want to turn to the Town. As many of you know, we're doing things very differently than ever before. Our facilities are closed to public access, but staff remain working to provide vital services to our residents. For example:

- Our Utilities Department has changed how they operate, so they are almost always working alone or remotely with almost no contact with others, and they do not frequent the Public Works Shop.
- Equipment operators are heading from the parking lot straight to the vehicles or equipment they will be operating for the day and minimizing their time in the shop; and
- The Fire Department continues to train using virtual methods and maintaining their health to continue to provide quality emergency protection to our citizens.

I want to reassure residents that our staff are working incredibly hard to ensure the vital services we provide to you remain unaffected by COVID-19, which includes them making every effort to remain healthy at work and at home. If you have any questions about our services and programming, please [click here](#), or you can give us a call at 780-632-2606 during our regular business hours. As we're forced to adapt our services, we post updates in real-time to our website and social media, so please make sure you're frequently checking.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to talk about the importance of remaining positive during these uncertain times. We're all stressed and rightfully worried about what comes next. But we need to stay positive. If you need support, please reach out. Take some time to give someone in your life a call to make sure they're well, lend a helping hand when you can, wave at people passing by. We are all in this together, and we will get through this together. Stay well, Vegreville.