

March 30: COVID-19 update from Vegreville Mayor Tim MacPhee

MARCH 30, 2020

Mayor Tim MacPhee appeared on [Country 106.5](#) this morning to provide residents with an update on how COVID-19 continues to impact Town's operations. [Please visit our COVID-19 page for the most current information.](#)

[Click here for audio from the Mayor's radio appearance.](#)

Responses the Town has taken to-date:

- March 16 - The Town closed facilities where many people typically congregate like our recreation facilities to help reduce the risk of community transmission.
- March 18 - The Town closed all other facilities to public access. However, staff remain in office to assist residents over the phone and by email.
- March 26 - All playgrounds in Vegreville were closed to the public.

It's important to note that the Town is following the recommendations of the Government of Alberta and Canada to protect the health of our residents.

Council

- The next Council Meeting is scheduled for April 15 at 7:00 PM. The location and methods for public access will be determined closer to the meeting date and will depend significantly on the social distancing measures the Government of Alberta has in place at the time of the meeting.

Administration

- Staff remain in office to assist you with your payments and inquiries you may have. You can find the contact information for our staff [here](#). There is also a mail drop off at the front door of our Administration Building.
- The Town is seeking applicants for our summer student positions. To the job postings and to apply, please [click here](#).

FCSS

- Our FCSS department is conducting a survey to determine what areas of social supports are needed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please fill out the survey [on our website](#) or by calling FCSS at 780-632-3966 by April 10, 2020.
- We're still offering the Meals on Wheels Program with increased precautions to ensure the health and safety of staff and volunteers. Anyone who has trouble cooking due to recent hospitalization, surgery, frailty, or illness could receive meals delivered. Please call FCSS to register at 780-632-3966.
- Also, FCSS is still doing simple tax returns. If, as a single person, your income is under \$35,000 or as a couple, your income is less than \$45,000, you could qualify. You need to go to the Town Office, where you will see a container with forms. Take one, and on the front, you'll see a space for you to print your name and your phone number. On the back is the CRA form you need to sign in two places. Put the paper in the mail slot beside the main door of Town Hall. No need to call the office, someone will call you and together you will complete the tax return over the phone.

Infrastructure, Planning & Development

- Department Staff remain working to ensure the department's services remain unaffected. For department, contacts click [here](#).
- Our Utility team has changed how they operate, so they're working alone or remotely with almost no contact with others. Residents should be confident that the Town will continue to provide quality Water and Wastewater services.
- Solid Waste Services and our Public Works team have also changed how they operate with regular equipment sanitizing and distancing from others. These actions will contribute to uninterrupted service.
- Our Public Works Department wants to remind residents not to flush paper towels, disinfecting wipes, towelettes, baby wipes, or mop refills down the toilet. They clog our waste lines and risk costly repairs. So, make sure you throw your wipes in the trash, not the toilet.

Businesses/Community

- The Vegreville & District Chamber of Commerce is posting business' closures, modified hours, or adjusted services to their [Facebook page](#) to assist residents with their shopping during the pandemic. The Chamber is also stressing the importance of supporting local during this, particularly challenging time.
- If you see something around Town that makes you smile and brings a little joy to your day, post a picture to social media and share it with us using the hashtag #Vegreville.

Provincial

- The Government of Alberta's Public Health Orders can be [found here](#). It's important that you're checking these orders frequently as they change often.

As of today, March 30, the Government of Alberta's Public Health Orders are:

- Mandatory 14-day [self-isolation for returning international travellers](#) or close contacts of people with confirmed COVID-19.
- 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.
- [Restrictions on mass gathering and businesses](#) are now legally enforceable and subject to fines.
- Facilities under this order include all nursing homes, designated supportive living and long-term care facilities, seniors lodges and any facility in which residential addiction treatment services are offered under the *Mental Health Services Protection Act*.