



## COVID-19 Information - March 7, 2020

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the City of Port Alberni are actively monitoring information provided by Federal and Provincial agencies with regards to the spread and severity of coronavirus (COVID-19).

As the lead agencies for British Columbia, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and the BC Ministry of Health are closely monitoring the situation and will provide guidance to the public and local authorities. As a support agency, the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the City of Port Alberni will continue to respond to and distribute accurate information to residents on behalf of the BCCDC and the Ministry of Health.

The ACRD Emergency Plans guide our response at the local level for COVID-19. In this case, the local government's main role is to help provide accurate and timely information to the public and to protect our employees so that we can continue to provide and maintain service levels for our residents. We will notify the public as soon as possible if changes to Regional District and City services are necessary.

**Currently, the Public Health Agency of Canada has assessed the public health risk as low for Canada.**

The public health risk is continually reassessed as new information becomes available and residents are encouraged to stay up-to-date by regularly visiting these Federal and Provincial links:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>
- <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/information-on-novel-coronavirus>

Following the advice from the Ministry of Health and the BCCDC, residents are also reminded and encouraged to take the following steps to stay healthy and prevent the spread of infections by:

- washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands;
- avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- cough or sneeze into your sleeve and not your hands;
- staying home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others;
- remembering that diseases can make anyone sick, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

**More information on prevention can be found here:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html>

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