



THE VILLAGE OF  
**N A K U S P**

Good Afternoon Citizens of Nakusp,

Council and staff are trying hard to keep up with these fast moving events. We will do our best to answer your concerns and questions the best we can using factual information we receive from Interior Health through the provided web links and other updates IH shares with us.

On March 13<sup>th</sup> two council members and I met with Dr. Cochrane IH Board Chair, Susan Brown IH CEO., and Barbie Kalmakoff the Director of Clinical Operations at Arrow Lakes Hospital. We were brought up to date on measures that Interior Health (IH) is taking to manage the situation.

For the latest information on COVID-19, including the number of confirmed cases, visit [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca). You can also follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter ([@CDCofBC](https://twitter.com/CDCofBC)) for ongoing updates.

#### **Key facts about Coronavirus Disease**

- The risk of COVID-19 transmission continues to remain low for residents of British Columbia.
- Anyone who is concerned that they may have been exposed to, or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, should contact their primary care provider or **call 8-1-1**.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada has set up a COVID-19 telephone information line at: **1-833-784-4397**.

The attached document is the March 2020 Healthy Communities Newsletter that IH asked to share with the community. In this newsletter are links regarding COVID-19. Please read and share these links for latest updates. For trusted information IH recommend these credible sources:

**Protecting yourself and your community:** [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))

**Information and latest updates from the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit** <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

**The latest audio clips of COVID-19 BC media availabilities:** <https://soundcloud.com/bcgov>

**Interior Health breaking news & information website:**

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/CommunicableDiseaseControl/Pages/Breaking-News-and-Info.aspx>

#### **For general public:**

- [BC Centre for Disease Control](http://www.bccdc.ca/) (BCCDC), with [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for the public and patients
- [HealthLink's provincial health line](#) – 8-1-1 (toll-free) or 7-1-1 for the deaf and hard or hearing: registered nurses available 24/7 to answer questions on the phone/online. Translation services available in 130 plus languages.
- Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Resources from Public Health Agency of Canada
  - [Outbreak Update](#)
  - [Being Prepared](#)
  - [Travel Advice](#)
  - [Awareness Resources](#) - including [Know the Facts about Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) World Health Organization](#)

**For Patients:**

- [Patient Handout \(short version\)](#) – information about the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) for patients being tested and/or cared for in the community
- [Patient Handout long version](#) – information about the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) for patients being tested and/or cared for in the community

**About Community Events and Gatherings:**

Dr Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, has directed all event organizers to cancel events with 250 persons or greater.

If you are considering events of less than 250 people, please see the [Risk Assessment Tool from the Public Health Agency of Canada](#). The following is advice for those who choose to continue with events of less than 250 people.

Organizers should encourage and support attendees, volunteers and employees to:

- Stay home if they are ill.
- Clean their hands frequently and adequately, especially after coughing or sneezing, before interactions with others.
  - Organizers should ensure access to hand sanitizer and or warm running water and soap and consider handwashing posters.
- Cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing (e.g. cough into their arm), and avoiding touching their face.
- Avoid close proximity and contact with others.
- Organizers can discourage physical contact and crowding (e.g. by encouraging people not to shake hands, not to sit or dance closely together, spacing of chairs, etc.). Avoid sharing food or drinks with others.
  - Organizers can eliminate self-serve buffet style eating, and instead offer separate individual servings (e.g. bagged lunches, separate serving plates).
  - Food and drink samples should only be provided if they are individually portioned in disposable cups.
- Ensure frequent cleaning with an approved disinfectant or sanitizer, of all commonly touched surfaces (ie. door handles, backs of chairs, table edges).
- Stay up to date on current recommendations.
  - Daily media updates are available from the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry and the [BCCDC](#).

Check back on this website regularly for updates relevant to mass gatherings. Contact your local public health office if you have further questions.

Thank you,  
Village of Nakusp Mayor, Tom Zeleznik.