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## County of Wetaskiwin No. 10

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### NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

April 3, 2020

#### Update on COVID-19

The County of Wetaskiwin is closely monitoring the spread of the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Alberta.

"It is imperative to follow the direction of our Provincial Health Authority at this time. We should all be willing to stay home and only go out for essential items like medication and groceries," said County of Wetaskiwin Reeve Terry Van de Kraats. "We should be ready to protect the health of our loved ones as much as possible. We should be ready to protect our community members as much as possible by distancing ourselves. We should be ready to maintain connection with others via technology, such as email, phone, and text. Let's work together as much as possible to get through this time in our history."



"Thank you to all the essential services workers out there doing so much to support and protect us during these trying times. The County of Wetaskiwin and County Council truly appreciates you and everything you do."

For the most up to date information from the County, we ask that all stakeholders monitor our website <https://www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca/722/COVID-19-Supports> or Facebook page [facebook.com/wetaskiwincounty](https://facebook.com/wetaskiwincounty).

#### County buildings are closed to the public due to COVID-19

The County of Wetaskiwin Administration Building, County Public Works Shops (Wetaskiwin & Winfield), Winfield Agriplex and County Libraries, will be closed to the public until further notice. At this time, County Transfer Stations will remain open to the public as an essential service and Operators will be practicing recommended social distancing techniques, including staying a minimum of six (6) feet from others as much as possible in their duties. Garbage collection will continue as scheduled.

County services will continue for the time being with staff working in the office. Members of the public can access these services remotely by contacting the County by phone during regular hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday) at (780) 352-3321 or Toll Free at 1-800-661-4125. For after hours inquiries, the County can be contacted at (780) 352-0005 or 1-800-581-0050. Email contacts may found via the County of Wetaskiwin Website at <https://www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca/directory.aspx>.

The County is committed to ensuring that services, especially essential services, are continued in a regular fashion on behalf of the citizens in which we serve. The public can expect that most issues will be dealt with over the phone or through email rather than in person for the foreseeable future.

Residents wishing to make a payment can do so through the drop box located at the front entrance. County Administration, however, encourages the public to use on-line payments if possible. Please see the County's Website for more information.

For circumstances, services, and/or requests of a special nature such as loading/reloading water station cards, transfer station cards, and animal control fee payments, residents are encouraged to inquire by phone or email for further guidance and instruction.

Are you unable to leave your house to pick up groceries and other necessities? The County of Wetaskiwin would like to help. The County of Wetaskiwin is working with Wetaskiwin's "Jordan's No Frills" and local community groups to help individuals, seniors, families and other vulnerable County residents who are isolated or impacted by measures to contain COVID-19. If you would like assistance, please contact the County office at 780-352-3321.

The County of Wetaskiwin wants to inform all our citizens that the Pipestone flyer will no longer be delivering newspapers door to door through Canada Post. Their hope is to resume delivery in May. The Pipestone Flyer is available electronically at <https://www.pipestoneflyer.ca/>.

If you have any concerns about not receiving your weekly paper please contact Sharon Radis, Communications Officer, at 780-361-6220 or [sradis@county10.ca](mailto:sradis@county10.ca).

# NEWS RELEASE

## COVID-19 Continues to Spread

The graph below shows how the number of cases of COVID-19 has increased in the last two weeks.

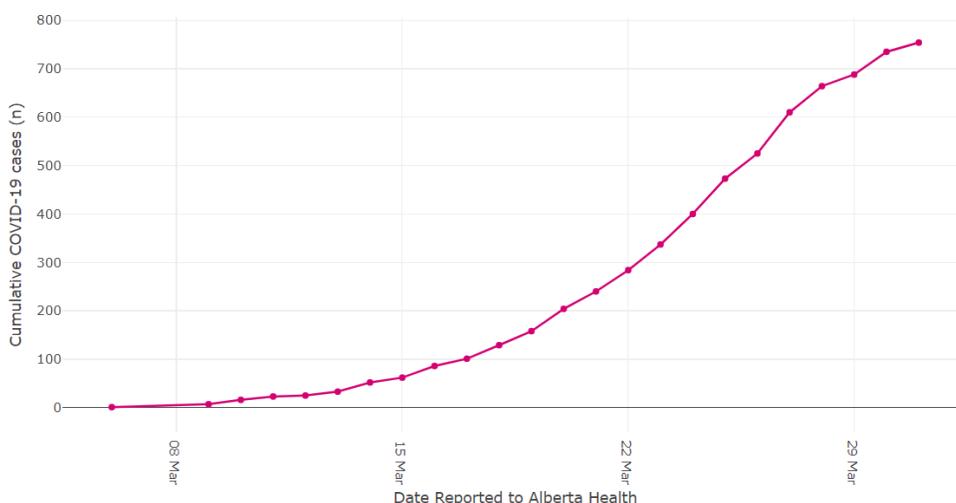


Figure 1: Cumulative COVID-19 cases in Alberta by day

The County wants to encourage all our residents to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by:

- keep at least 6 feet (the length of a bicycle) from others when going out for groceries, medical trips and other essential needs
- limit the number of times you leave your home for errands
- try to shop at less busy times
- order online to have groceries or other items delivered if possible
- go for a walk in your neighborhood or park while maintaining distance from others
- avoid overcrowding in elevators or other enclosed spaces
- follow Alberta's recommendations on mass gatherings
- wash or sanitize your hands after touching communal surfaces

### Looking for more information about COVID-19:

- For the most up to date information regarding COVID-19 please visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19)
- You can find more information about COVID-19 data including number of cases by age range, zone and local geographic areas, online at <https://covid19stats.alberta.ca/>
- Anyone who has symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose or nasal congestion MUST self-isolate for 10 days. Use this online screening tool to determine whether you need to call 811 to get tested. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/>
- For the most up to date federal information regarding COVID-19 please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

To protect the health and safety of Albertans, law enforcement agencies now have full authority to enforce public health orders and issue fines for violations.

- 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.
- Violation of mass gathering restrictions 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*.

The following resources could be useful to you or someone you know during COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Alberta Health Services "Help in Tough Times" which provides various phone numbers and online resources <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/amh/Page16759.aspx>
- Anxiety Canada: What to do if you're anxious or worried about coronavirus (COVID-19) <https://www.anxietycanada.com/articles/what-to-do-if-you-are-anxious-or-worried-about-coronavirus-covid-19/>

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