

## STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED

The North Coast Regional District (NCRD), in coordination with its municipal, Council of the Haida Nation, Skidegate Band Council, and Old Massett Village Council partners, are acting to reduce the potential impact of COVID-19 in our communities, which is why on Monday, March 23rd, the Chair and Board declared a State of Emergency in the NCRD. Under B.C.'s Emergency Program Act, when a State of Emergency is declared, it fully activates the NCRD's Emergency Operations Centre and gives these key personnel greater flexibility to access resources and respond efficiently to emergent circumstances.

We are continuing to offer essential services, and are taking a proactive role in helping citizens to heed the advice of the Provincial Health Officer to practice social distancing. By taking these key steps early, we are all doing what we can to keep everyone safe, especially those who are at greater risk. We are all in this together.

In accordance with the Emergency Program Act, travel to and from communities within the North Coast Regional District will be limited to essential services only.

Emergency measure recommendations under the Health Act, in support of the Provincial Health Officer, that are now in place throughout the NCRD:

1. All residents who are not working in essential services are asked to stay home and shelter in place. Those who must travel to and from work for essential services are asked to do so quickly and efficiently, respecting social distancing of 2 meters/ 6 feet.
2. Residents may only have physical contact with individuals within the same household, except in workplaces that continue to operate for essential service provision. Individuals who continue to attend physical workspaces out of necessity must practice social distancing of 2 meters/6 feet and follow recommended practices with respect to hygiene and disinfection of shared spaces. Health recommendations for businesses are available via the BC Centre for Disease Control, here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/employers-businesses>
3. Except for those essential services in outdoor environments, residents may only go outside with members of your household and must keep your distance from anyone outside of your household, respecting social distancing.
4. Areas that typically attract larger groups of people where a separation of 2 meters/6 feet is difficult to maintain are now closed to the public. This includes recreation centres and facilities, libraries and playgrounds.
  - a. Any outdoor sporting activity that cannot keep a 2 meter/6 foot separation is not permitted.
5. Children under 12 must be supervised or within communication distance of an adult when outside.
6. All residents who are returning from travel to a community within the NCRD from any mode of transportation from any location either internationally and domestically are strongly recommended to self-isolate for 14 days upon returning. Those who are coming to communities within the NCRD for the purpose of conducting essential service work (and do not show symptoms) are exempt (please follow all Provincial social distancing guidelines of 2 meters/6 feet).

7. Residents are strongly discouraged from leaving their community during this time. For those who MUST travel for essential services are to adhere to Provincial and local health regulations.

If necessary, further local orders may be established to protect public health under the guidance of emergency personnel and health care professionals. These orders are issued on a temporary basis. In 7 days there will be a mandatory review process to determine whether they must continue.

# NORTH COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT SERVICE IMPACTS

## Closure of all Public Facilities and Event Cancellations

- The administration office, recreation facilities and programs, and public access to landfill and recycling services are closed until further notice.
- Please call 250-624-2002 to arrange an appointment with NCRD staff, if required. Note that availability for in-person meetings will be limited.
- Board meeting access will follow the directive of the Province, with remove teleconference options available.

## Enhanced Measures within NCRD Essential Services

- The following precautions are being taken by staff who continue to be able to fulfill their duties, where possible:
- Movement of meetings and work to remote formats and/or rotating staff, using call-in/video conferencing formats where possible.
  - Enhanced disinfecting measures within NCRD facilities.
  - Direction to staff to observe good hygiene practices as recommended by health authorities, inclusive of regular handwashing, avoiding touching ones' face and social distancing.
  - Mandatory self-quarantining of any staff returning from travel outside of Canada and cancellation of any non-essential travel plans.

## Reduction to NCRD Essential Services

- Until further notice, the NCRD's operations is moving to essential service provision.
- The following services will continue:
  - o Emergency services – including fire and policing;
  - o Residential garbage pick-up;
  - o Mainland recycling drop-off (by appointment only); and
  - o Emergency water repairs.
- Non-essential operations will not be available until further notice.

# Helping Residents and Businesses Access Supports

## RESIDENT SUPPORTS

### Employment Insurance & Emergency Care Benefit

If you are sick or are forced to stay home, the federal government has waived the one-week waiting period for EI and has also waived the requirement for a doctor's note. For more information about how to apply, call 1-800-531-7555.

Starting in early April, the federal government will launch the Emergency Care Benefit to provide you with up to \$900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks. When applications are made available in the coming weeks, they will be administered through the Canada Revenue Agency. To make yourself ready, it is strongly recommended if you have already to create a My CRA online account.

### Other Programs

- Pause on repayments of Canada Student Loan and Canada Apprentice Loan debt with no interest accruing until September 30th, 2020.
- CMHC mortgage deferral options (contact your lender for more information).
- Income tax payment deferral amounts owing (until August 2020).
- Increased Childcare Benefit Amount.

For more information on these programs, type the names into the search bars of the Federal and Provincial websites at [canada.gc.ca](http://canada.gc.ca) and [gov.bc.ca](http://gov.bc.ca).

## BUSINESS SUPPORTS

### Deferred Business Tax Filing

The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all business to defer, until after August 31st, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020.

### Federal Wage Subsidy

The federal government is proposing to provide eligible small employers a temporary wage subsidy for a period of three (3) months.

### Business Credit Availability Program

The Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) will allow the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC) to provide more than \$10 billion of additional support, largely targeted to small and medium-sized businesses.

For more information on all of these supports, go to [canada.gc.ca](http://canada.gc.ca).

## COVID-19 Questions?

- Northern Health ([www.northernhealth.ca](http://www.northernhealth.ca))
- HealthLink BC ([www.healthlinkbc.ca](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca))
- BC Centre for Disease Control ([www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca))
- Health Canada ([www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca))
- World Health Organization ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int))

# For the Purpose of this Declaration of a Local State of Emergency, "Essential Service" means:

## 1. Essential Health Care Operations, Including:

- research and laboratory services
- hospitals
- walk-in-care health facilities
- emergency veterinary and livestock services
- elder care
- medical wholesale and distribution
- home health care workers or aides for the elderly
- doctor and emergency dental
- nursing homes, or residential health care facilities or congregate care facilities
- medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers
- ambulance

## 2. Essential Infrastructure, Including:

- utilities including power generation, fuel supply and transmission
- public water and wastewater
- telecommunications and data centers
- airports/airlines
- transportation infrastructure such as or for-hire vehicles, garages, BC Ferries
- hotels, and places of accommodation

## 3. Essential Manufacturing, Including:

- food processing, manufacturing agents, including all foods and beverages
- agriculture/farms

## 4. Essential Retail, Including:

- grocery stores including all food and beverage stores
- pharmacies
- convenience stores
- farmer's markets
- gas stations
- restaurants/bars (but only for take-out/delivery)
- hardware and building material stores

## 5. Essential Services, Including:

- trash collection, processing and disposal
- mail and shipping services
- laundromats
- building cleaning and maintenance
- child care services for essential service providers
- auto repair
- warehouse/distribution and fulfillment
- funeral homes and cemeteries
- storage for essential businesses
- animal shelters

## 6. Financial Institutions, Including:

- banks
- insurance
- payroll
- accounting

## 7. Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations, Including:

- homeless shelters and congregate care facilities
- food banks
- human services providers whose function includes the direct care of patients in licensed or funded voluntary programs; the care, protection, custody and oversight of individuals both in the community and in licensed residential facilities; those operating community shelters and other critical human services agencies providing direct care or support

## 8. Construction, Including:

- skilled trades such as electricians, plumbers
- other related construction firms and professionals for essential infrastructure or for emergency repair and safety purposes

## 9. Essential Services Necessary to Maintain the Safety, Sanitation and Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses, Including:

- law enforcement
- fire prevention and response
- security
- emergency management and response
- building cleaners or janitors
- general maintenance whether employed by the entity directly or a vendor
- automotive repair
- disinfection
- municipal governance

## 10. Vendors that Provide Essential Services or Products, Including Technology Support, Child Care and Services:

- technology support for online services
- child care programs and services
- government owned or leased buildings
- essential government services

