



Update COVID-19

Navigating your way through the coronavirus known as COVID-19 is challenging to say the least. Life as we know it is changing daily and sometimes even faster than that. At the Village office we are receiving many calls looking to us for information. We hope that this update will answer some of your concerns.

How do the Ministerial Orders announced March 26, 2020 affect life in Ashcroft?

1. **Bylaw Enforcement Officer Assistance** (Ministerial Order M082)

Currently the Village of Ashcroft does not have a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, in Ashcroft the RCMP will enforce the public health order. That said, the Village may consider appointing a Bylaw Officer if necessary. This order does not provide bylaw officers with additional powers. Existing Bylaw Officers are asked to provide assistance that may include monitoring certain facilities, providing information and warnings to the public and providing information to Provincial health officers. This Order does not authorize bylaw enforcement officers to detain anyone or to issue fines or penalties pursuant to Provincial public health orders. It does not limit the enforcement authority of Bylaw officers with respect to local government bylaws. **How does this affect Ashcroft? As Ashcroft does not have a Bylaw Officer at this time, we will look to the RCMP for enforcement of the Provincial health order.**

2. **Local Government Meetings and Bylaw Process** (COVID-19 Order), (Ministerial Order M083)

Under the Community Charter (Provincial legislation that governs Council) meetings are required to be open to the public with some exceptions. Order M083 enables Council to meet without public in attendance. M083 also enables municipal councils and regional district boards to conduct meetings by electronic means, whether their procedure bylaws contemplate this process or not. Lastly, M083 enables municipalities and regional districts to adopt bylaws on the same day they receive third reading with a majority vote. M083 does not address bylaws that require public hearings. **How does this affect Ashcroft? Council has the ability to meet and conduct business without public in attendance. Village of Ashcroft Council meetings are closed to the public until further notice. Meetings will be recorded and broadcast on the HUB online network.**

3. **Local Authorities and Essential Goods and Supplies Order** (Ministerial Order M084)

M084 provides that:

Local authorities must immediately implement their local emergency plan; **Ashcroft is considered activated at level one focusing on business continuity and service delivery.**

Any previous declaration by a local authority of a state of local emergency (“SOLE”) under the Emergency Program Act is set aside and any further SOLE declaration must first receive approval of the Minister; the **Village of Ashcroft has not enacted a Local State of Emergency (SOLE) under the new order every community in BC is equal and must:**

- local authorities must comply with requests of the Minister regarding the COVID-19 response and critical supplies; **Ashcroft is compliant and working with other levels of government.**
- local authorities must exercise “best efforts” to enter into mutual aid agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions to ensure continuity of essential services during the COVID-19

“Wellness Awaits You”

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pandemic, and in particular to ensure that first responder, wastewater and drinking water services are maintained; and **Ashcroft is part of the Regional committee that includes Cache Creek, Clinton, Spences Bridge, TNRD Areas I & E, Ashcroft Indian Band, Bonaparte Indian Band and Cooks Ferry Indian Band, School District #74, IHA, RCMP, FD's, BCHES, (First Responders).**

- local authority bylaws restricting delivery of goods, food or supplies to retailers within that jurisdiction do not apply. **Ashcroft does not have any bylaws enacted that restricts the flow of good and services.**

M084 applies to “local authorities” which include a municipal council for a municipality or regional district board for a regional district. Under the Order, the term “essential goods and supplies” means any goods and supplies that are necessary for the health, safety and welfare of people, including, without limitation, the following:

- (a) food, water and other beverages;
- (b) fuel and gasoline;
- (c) health care goods, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies;
- (d) personal hygiene, sanitation and cleaning goods.

NOTE:

Kamloops Save on Foods announced today that anyone visiting the pharmacy on March 10, 13, 14 or from March 16 – 21 to self isolate due to an employee testing positive for COVID-19.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include the following:

Fever

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Other milder symptoms may include: runny nose, fatigue, body aches (muscles and joints aching), diarrhea, headache, sore throat, vomiting and red eyes.

Village Actions:

- Participating in regional, provincial and local meetings, briefings and teleconferences to stay informed;
- Sharing information by posting bulletins at the Post Office, posting on the Village website and mailing information to residents when necessary.
- The Village office is closed to the public in compliance with Social Distancing, staff are able to assist by phone or email, all public works operations are ongoing.
- The playgrounds and skate park are closed to the public but fields are open for use
- Council and staff continue to develop strategies and plans to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring ongoing essential service delivery.

Transit: bus is operational, no fees being charged, limited passengers

What should you be doing:

- **STAY HOME**
- **AVOID CONGREGATING OR VISITING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO OTHERS**
- **GO OUTSIDE AS A FAMILY, STAY AWAY FROM OTHERS**
- **WASH HANDS OFTEN**
- **SANITIZE AND CLEAN COMMON TOUCHABLE SURFACES AND AREAS**
- **LOOK AFTER YOUR NEIGHBOURS, KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
- **BE KIND, BE CALM, BE SAFE – AND PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER**

Mayor, Barbara Roden