



Village of Ashcroft COVID-19 UPDATE

March 19, 2020

The Village of Ashcroft is taking all necessary precautions to keep residents and staff safe in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Updates on what the Village is doing about the COVID-19 situation can be found on the Village's website at <https://ashcroftbc.ca/>. Click on "News" at bottom right of the home page for all updates, which will also be publicly posted at the Ashcroft post office.

To ensure the safety of Village staff, the Ashcroft Village office at 601 Bancroft Street will be closed to the public indefinitely as of 4 p.m. on Friday, March 20. Staff will still be on duty and answering phone calls and emails during regular office hours; call (250) 453-9161 or email admin@ashcroftbc.ca if you have questions or concerns. If the situation warrants it, an in-person meeting can be scheduled.

All essential Village services (water, sewer, fire protection, garbage collection) are being maintained as usual.

In order to help residents who have not yet paid their utility bills, the date to receive the early payment discount has been extended to April 30 from March 31. Cheques can be mailed to the Village of Ashcroft, P.O. Box 129, Ashcroft, B.C. V0K 1A0.

Council meetings will continue to take place in the council chambers at 601 Bancroft Street. However, in order to maintain social distancing as recommended by the Provincial Health Officer, only six seats will be available for members of the public at the next meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, March 23. The HUB Online Network will be recording the meeting, which can be viewed on their YouTube channel. Visit the Village website for the agendas and minutes for all council meetings.

For up-to-date, factual information about the virus, its symptoms, how to tell if you have it, how to prevent its spread, and more, here are some sites to check:

HEALTH LINK BC has clear answers to commonly asked questions about COVID-19, including symptoms, prevention, treatment, and preventive measures: <http://bit.ly/39RKeA2>.

HEALTH CANADA has updates, travel advice, and more: www.canada.ca/coronavirus.

The BC CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL has the latest updates on the COVID-19 virus, information, and guidance about mass gatherings: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.

The B.C. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER and the MINISTRY OF HEALTH are providing daily updates on the coronavirus. Their news releases can be found at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/health>.

If you have concerns about symptoms, Health Link BC's 8-1-1 line remains available. A trained health care professional can answer your questions and direct you as to the best course of action.

However, to reduce pressure on the 8-1-1 number due to higher than usual call volumes, the B.C. government has launched two new services. One is a COVID-19 information line, where people can get non-medical information about the virus. British Columbians can reach service representatives seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., by calling 1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319).

There is also an online self-assessment test that anyone can take if they are concerned they might have COVID-19; go to <http://bit.ly/3b8XEHX>.

Please continue to maintain social distancing and take all precautions to protect yourself and other community members during this difficult time. If you have recently returned from a vacation please self isolate as BC's Health Officer recommends.

Barbara Roden
MAYOR,