

**For Immediate Release**

## News Release

### **COVID-19 UPDATE – Town of Edson (March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 16:30)**

**Edson, Alberta, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020** – While Alberta Health’s data shows zero cases in the Edson zone right now, we want to ask residents to remain vigilant when it comes to physical distancing and public gatherings. While there are currently no confirmed cases, this does not mean the virus isn’t present at all, nor does it mean the virus won’t spread to the area. The public health measures put in place are meant to “flatten the curve” of the COVID-19 spread, not completely prevent it.

With this said, the Town of Edson would like to ask residents to not hold gatherings of more than 10 people at this time. Public spaces in the Town of Edson will be closed to gatherings larger than 10 people. We understand this is more restrictive than the Provincial measures currently in place, however, we feel it is a prudent step to take at this time as the virus continues to spread. While we encourage people to get out and be active, we want everyone to keep the social/physical distancing practices in mind while doing so.

To follow suit, effective immediately and indefinitely, Council committee meetings will also be cancelled at this time. Regular Council meetings will be reviewed based on urgent/emergency matters that may need to be dealt with. Please be assured Council will still remain involved at a community level in decision making moving forward. Currently our Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) is meeting twice a day to discuss issues in real time. A special Emergency Management meeting with Council will be held tomorrow night as well. This is closed to the public; however, messaging is expected to be sent out with details from those discussions.

The Town of Edson would like to remind residents of the self-isolation protocols that are currently in place. If you recently returned from travel outside Canada or have symptoms - cough, fever, fatigue or difficulty breathing:

- stay home – do not go to an ER or clinic
- take the COVID-19 self-assessment test at [www.alberta.ca/covid19](http://www.alberta.ca/covid19)
- call Health Link 8-1-1 for testing and instructions

Returning from travel means immediate self-isolation. Please do not make stops prior to self-isolation and make other arrangements to have necessities delivered.

The Province has revised protocols regarding the self-isolation measures for those returning from travel and those that were reporting symptoms. Please visit [www.alberta.ca/covid19](http://www.alberta.ca/covid19) for full details.

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We've heard of situations across the world where people have not been adhering to the public health restrictions set in place, and we encourage our residents to help prevent the spread by following recommendations.

As well, we'd like to remind residents to take extra precautions with personal and public property. Over the weekend there were a number of break-ins at local public facilities. Please remember to lock your personal belongings up (including the doors to your vehicles), and to report any suspicious behaviour to the RCMP.

We would like to thank Edson residents for all they've done to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 at this time, including our medical professionals, emergency services, and our staff for continuing to work to maintain Edson's essential services. What you are doing matters and will help slow the spread.

Be safe and remember to keep up to date on current COVID-19 information at all levels of Government.

Edson – [www.edson.ca/covid](http://www.edson.ca/covid)

Alberta – [www.alberta.ca/covid19](http://www.alberta.ca/covid19)

Canada – [www.canada.ca/covid19](http://www.canada.ca/covid19)

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