

ECC Strategic Operational Plan

On March 11, 2020 the World health Organization declared a global pandemic related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

On March 19th, 2020 the province of Alberta declared a Public Health Emergency as there were confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Alberta.

The Town of Edson activated our Emergency Coordination Center on March 16th, 2020 to respond to this health emergency at a local level.

The goal of the ECC operations was to continually monitor and evaluate the effects the virus was having on the World, National, Provincial and local levels.

Locally the goal has been to follow the direction of the Province in deciding on strategies and initiatives in dealing with COVID-19.

Our ECC developed objectives to guide us through this challenging situation. Those objectives are:

1. Continual monitoring of Provincial, Federal and Local COVID-19 related situations
2. Monitor Employee impacts
3. Monitor Community impacts
4. Develop relaunch and recovery strategies

There have been several community initiatives undertaken during the past several months including maintaining playgrounds, consistent messaging and maintaining municipal operations.

As we move through this challenging time, the ECC group is continually re-evaluating and discussing new ideas and strategies to ensure we are meeting the needs of our residents. The ultimate goal is to provide a safe and healthy environment within our community.

The ECC team has discussed the development of an Operational strategy with a focus on having a tiered response to changing COVID-19 conditions.

The tiered response will follow this risk level strategy:

Low risk	-	Evaluation of the Risks within the community Fewer than 10 confirmed active COVID-19 cases locally
Medium Risk	-	Evaluation of the Risks within the community 10 – 29 confirmed active COVID-19 cases locally
High Risk	-	Evaluation of the Risks within the community 30 or more confirmed active COVID-19 cases locally

All COVID-19 cases must be confirmed by Alberta Health Service

Low Risk:

Fewer than 10 active COVID-19 cases locally

During a low risk level the ECC operations will focus on the following:

1. Maintaining the current daily operations
2. Continued focus on messaging
 - a. Stress social & physical distancing (2m)
 - b. Regular hand washing
 - c. Regular hand sanitizer
 - d. Voluntary mask wearing
3. Continue with regular ECC meetings
4. Continual monitoring and evaluation of Provincial and local COVID impacts
5. Continue the development and implementation of relaunch and recovery initiatives
6. Persistent community spread may cause an elevation in Risk level as determined by the ECC

Medium Risk:

Medium Risk level may be activated including but not limited to the following circumstances:

- There are more than 10 active cases within the Edson Region
- There is a persistent spread of active cases within the community
- There is an outbreak within local schools, which may or may not result in a closure of the school(s)
- A persistent and active Infection rate profile of neighboring communities (e.g. Hinton, Whitecourt, Evansburg, etc.)

During a medium risk level the ECC operations will focus on the following:

1. Review municipal daily operations
 - a. Reinstate park patrols
2. Increase messaging
 - a. Stress social & physical distancing (2m)
 - b. Regular hand washing
 - c. Regular hand sanitizer
3. Increase frequency of ECC meetings
 - a. Request AB Health Services to attend meetings
 - b. Request RCMP to attend meetings
4. Continual monitoring and evaluating of provincial and local COVID impacts
5. Review implementation of relaunch and recovery initiatives
6. Evaluate with AB health services outbreak impacts
 - a. Hospital
 - b. School
 - c. Seniors facility
 - d. Care facility

High Risk:

High Risk level may be activated including but not limited to the following circumstances:

- There are more than 30 active cases within the Edson Region
- There is a continued and persistent spread of active cases within the community
- There is an outbreak within local schools, which may or may not result in a closure of the school(s), or other local community facility which may have the ability to impact the community as a whole
- A continued, persistent and active Infection rate profile of neighboring communities (e.g. Hinton, Whitecourt, Evansburg, etc.)

During a high risk level the ECC operations will focus on the following:

1. Review municipal operations
 - a. Consider closing facilities
 - i. Town admin buildings
 - ii. Rec facilities
 - iii. Parks
 - iv. Etc.
2. Stress key messaging
 - a. Social & physical distancing (2m)
 - b. Regular hand washing
 - c. Regular hand sanitizer
3. Continue with increased meetings of ECC
 - a. Meeting to include AB health Services
 - b. Meeting to include RCMP
4. Continual monitoring and evaluating of provincial and local COVID impacts
5. Review implementation of relaunch and recovery initiatives
 - a. Consider suspending/delaying this initiative
6. Evaluate with AB health services outbreak impacts
 - a. Hospital
 - b. School
 - c. Seniors facility
 - d. Care facility
7. Review protocol for limits on public gatherings
8. Consider declaring a SOLE
 - a. Based on the need for extra ordinary powers

Other Considerations:

While our goal is to operate in the Low risk model, it is imperative that we prepare for other possible outcomes.

At any time, the ECC may elevate the risk level if it is determined necessary for Public safety

Engagement with the Emergency Management Advisory Committee will increase with the risk levels.

Communicating and working with AB health Services is critical should we move into a Medium or High Risk level.

Consider impacts of other agencies operations such as School Closures, isolated outbreaks, Etc.