

News Release from the Town of Lake Cowichan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020



Statement from the Mayor Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Outbreak

Lake Cowichan, BC

Despite the recent declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic and with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in British Columbia, the risk to British Columbians and to our residents remains low.

Island Health, the BC Centre for Disease Control and provincial and federal authorities are closely monitoring the novel coronavirus outbreak and it should be noted that the Public Health Agency of Canada has stated that the risk to the public still remains low but that it is continually reassessing the situation.

The same advice that public health officials recommend for the cold and flu season must be followed if we are to remain safe:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water is not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used to clean your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid crowded situations, where possible and avoid physical contact
- When coughing or sneezing:
 - Cover your mouth and nose with your arm or clean tissues.
 - Do not use your hand, cloth handkerchiefs, or used tissues.
 - Immediately dispose of any tissues you have used into the garbage as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards.
- Frequently touched surfaces (e.g. worktops, doorknobs) must be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

The Town of Lake Cowichan supports the strategy of Island Health. Where possible, we will align our activities with regional, provincial, national and World Health Organization guidelines.

Sincerely,



Rod Peters

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Useful Links to follow:

- <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/diseases-conditions/novel-coronavirus-information>
- BC Centre for Disease Control website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/information-on-novel-coronavirus>
- National coronavirus information line: 1-833-784-4397
- Canadian travel recommendations <http://www.travel.gc.ca/>
- International information from WHO: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>