

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



March 11, 2020

### Statement from the Chair regarding COVID-19

**Duncan, BC** – “I want to provide an update to our communities regarding possible impacts stemming from the emerging situation around the COVID-19 virus.

It is important to know that the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) takes this matter seriously. We are doing our best to support public health, while also ensuring that we continue to provide local and regional service delivery.

Today the World Health Organization declared coronavirus a global pandemic. While there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in British Columbia, at this time the risk to British Columbians remains low.

The CVRD will be taking direction from Island Health on best practices to respond to this evolving situation, and I encourage everyone to keep apprised of any notifications coming from our provincial health authority.

As a precaution, the CVRD is encouraging the practice of social distancing, which includes the following:

- If you are feeling unwell, stay home and avoid public spaces
- Avoid physical contact by not handshaking or hugging
- Use proper respiratory etiquette and cover your mouth if you cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly

The CVRD will be working closely with our partners, including our member municipalities, First Nations and the Vancouver Island Health Authority in the coming days. We will be providing updates to the public as required to keep you informed of our response and any known or anticipated impacts to service delivery.”

Sincerely,

Aaron Stone  
Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District

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*For up to date information on COVID-19 please refer to the following resources:*

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/diseases-conditions/novel-coronavirus-information>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/>