

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



March 19, 2020

Further reduction of non-essential services as staffing levels reduced

Duncan, BC – In a continued effort to ensure safety of staff while delivering our essential services during the COVID-19 event, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is further curtailing its non-essential services.

After completion of a detailed essential service assessment, the CVRD will be focusing on delivery of the following essential services in the coming weeks:

- Fire and first responder response
- Water and sewer utilities
- 911 telecommunications/FireComm
- Emergency management
- Solid Waste Management
- Communications
- Recreation Centre refrigeration system maintenance and shut-down
- Facility and asset security
- Administrative functions including IT, finance, human resource management, risk management and governance

The majority of CVRD staff are no longer working from their regular workplaces and have been sent home. At this time the CVRD will also maintain some non-essential services in a limited capacity:

Development services staff will continue to process existing development applications. This will include conducting site inspections on a case-by-case basis. New development applications are not being accepted at this time, and there will be no in-person meetings with the public. Enquiries may be directed to ds@cvrd.bc.ca

Building inspection staff will continue to process existing building applications. This will include conducting site and building inspections with only the site supervisor or designate present. There will be no inspection services for occupied buildings. New building permit applications are not being accepted at this time, and there will be no in-person meetings with the public. The CVRD is investigating the option of receiving electronic plans and electronic fee payment. Enquiries may be directed to ian.macdonald@cvrd.bc.ca.

Bylaw enforcement and animal control staff will continue to respond to and investigate bylaw enforcement and dangerous dog complaints, prioritized on their risk to public health and safety. Enquiries/complaints may be directed to ian.macdonald@cvrd.bc.ca.

Parks and trails remain open to the public. However, park washroom facilities are closed and the public is encouraged to exercise caution when allowing children to use playground equipment. CVRD parks operations staff will continue to maintain parks, prioritizing matters based on risk to public health and safety. Enquiries may be directed to michael.miller@cvrd.bc.ca

Recreation facilities and community centres remain closed until further notice. Recreation program and facility rental refunds are being processed. If paid by credit card, refunds will be issued by credit card with all other original payment forms being refunded by cheque.

More information about our delivery of essential and non-essential services will be communicated as it becomes available or as service levels are modified.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Kris Schumacher
Manager, Communications & Engagement
250.746.2635
kris.schumacher@cprd.bc.ca