



Town of Ponoka Announces Precautionary Measures in Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

(March 13, 2020 – Ponoka, Alberta) – The Town of Ponoka places the safety of its citizens, staff and visitors as its top priority. As the number of Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases continues to grow, Town Administration is closely monitoring the situation. Reports from Alberta Health indicate the risk to Alberta residents of contracting the COVID-19 virus is still currently low.

Although the risk of infection is low, the Town of Ponoka is responding to the provincial health directive given yesterday by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health to limit gatherings of large groups of people to help slow the spread of the virus in Alberta.

Precautionary Measures to Limit Spread of Illness

To help ensure the safety and wellness of Ponoka citizens and to minimize the spread of illness, the Town is implementing the following steps effective immediately:

- The Ponoka Culture and Recreation Complex (Arena) is closed for the season (two weeks earlier than initially scheduled). All user groups have been contacted. The curling rink will close for the season on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.
- The Ponoka Aquaplex is closed to the public and all Aquaplex-related programming is cancelled until further notice. All affected user groups are being notified.
- The Town of Ponoka Operations facility and Electrical Department are closed to the public until further notice.
- The Town Office at #200, 5604-50 St. remains open to visitors by appointment only during regular office hours. Citizens are encouraged to mail in bill payments, pay online through their bank, or pay by credit card by using the credit card payment slip available at www.ponoka.ca or by phoning 403-783-4431. Late payment penalties will not be applied to payments due this month.
- Citizens who are not feeling well or have flu-like symptoms, such as a cough, fever or shortness of breath are asked to stay home and not attend public buildings. Citizens who don't have any symptoms of illness and do visit the Town Office are asked to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands before approaching the reception desk.
- Increased cleaning and sanitization measures are being implemented at Town facilities with an increased focus on high-touch surfaces like door handles, hand railings and common areas, in accordance with recommendations being given by health officials.



Delivery of Essential Services

Town staff will continue working to ensure the ongoing delivery of essential Town services, including clean drinking water, waste water treatment, electrical services, curbside waste collection and solid waste management.

Outdoor recreation facilities such as the Outdoor Rink at the Arena, the skating trail in Lions Centennial Park and walking trails throughout the community will continue to be maintained by Town staff and available for public use. Cross country ski trails are also available at the Ponoka Golf Club.

Protect Yourself and Others

In addition to safety-related measures being taken by the Town, citizens are encouraged to protect themselves and others against the spread of illness by doing the following:

- Use good hygiene practices, such as frequent handwashing or use hand sanitizer when you can't wash your hands with warm, soapy water
- Cover coughs and sneezes using your elbow, shoulder or a tissue
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Stay at home and away from others if you are feeling ill
- Contact your primary health care provider or Health Link 811 if you have questions or concerns about your health

For more information on how to protect yourself, please visit www.alberta.ca/COVID19.

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