



## INFORMATION REPORT

**Subject:** Emergency Coordination Centre Update

**Prepared by:** Greg Van Tighem, Director of Emergency Management

**Date:** April 14, 2020

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### Introduction:

As the Director of Emergency Management (DEM) for the Municipality of Jasper my responsibility is to lead the municipal response through this incident. Every Municipality in Alberta is required to appoint a DEM and follow the direction of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency through the Alberta Emergency Management Act and Regulations.

- The COVID-19 outbreak was declared a public health emergency of International concern on Jan 30
- On March 11, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 situation a global pandemic
- On March 12, the Municipality of Jasper activated its Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) and initiated our Pandemic Influenza Plan and our Emergency Social Services Plan
- On March 17th Alberta declared a state of Public Health Emergency
- On March 12<sup>th</sup> the Municipality of Jasper hosted a COVID-19 pandemic planning and information meeting for MOJ Directors and Managers, Mayor and Council, Parks Canada, Alberta Health and local stakeholders. The objective of this meeting was to provide an update from AHS and discuss specific strategies and responsibilities moving forward.

After this meeting we established our first set of Incident Objectives:

1. To ensure the safety and health of residents and staff;
2. To maintain essential services and emergency response; and
3. To support Alberta Health Services

We also agreed on a definition of **Essential Services**. Essential services are public services that if interrupted would endanger the life, personal safety or health of the public, also services necessary to the maintenance and administration of the rule of law and public security. (The government of Alberta provides a list of Essential services)

**Current situation:** COVID-19 cases in Alberta

**Total case: 1,732      Total deaths: 46      Total recovered cases: 877**

In Alberta there are currently **47** individuals hospitalized and **14** are in the ICU.

Up to **254** of the total cases are suspected as community transmission.

- Alberta Health has conducted **77,007** tests.
- GOA is sending PPE and ventilators to BC, Quebec and Ontario.



- COVID-19 testing is now expanded to include all Albertans showing symptoms of infection.
- AHS is implementing a continuous masking strategy for all MFR
- There are **143** municipal ECC's operating in the province

**Activating the ECC:** (Excerpt from the Jasper Pandemic Plan)

“Following the receipt of information of a pandemic influenza outbreak from Alberta Health Services that necessitates the activation of this Pandemic Influenza Plan the Jasper Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) shall be activated to the degree necessary to support the municipal response. The command, control and coordination system that will be utilized by Municipality of Jasper Emergency Coordination Centre is the Incident Command System (ICS).

Staffing of the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) will only occur if and when it becomes evident that need exists. The Director of Emergency Management in discussion with the ECC Director and CAO will establish the appropriate staffing levels for the ECC. The first position activated will be the ECC Director. The ECC Director will communicate with outside agencies, senior management and Council”.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation is a Public Health Emergency, and as such Alberta Health Services has lead jurisdiction over the incident. However, the Municipality of Jasper has the responsibility to maintain operations of all necessary Municipal operations and to support AHS and the Community as required.

In this regard the ECC, management staff focus is on safe municipal operations, essential services, public works, public safety and tactical response required to assist AHS and the community.

**Emergency Social Services:** (ESS)

The Municipal Emergency Social Services is a branch under the ECC and focuses on the social impact of a pandemic situation on community members. A municipal ESS response ensures that residents' needs are being met by providing support, resources and referrals. During the emergency, ESS plays a vital role – focused on the changing social needs of residents and taking steps to engage individuals and organizations in meeting community needs. MOJ ESS has set up the COVID-19 Mutual Aid Facebook page, a place to get current, relevant, accurate information. Residents can also offer help or post if they need help, also find information from the municipality about resources and services.

If you need support accessing federal, provincial or local services, Community Outreach Services is here to help, call 780-852-2100. ESS is also operating the COVID-19 Referral Line for Jasper residents at 780-852-6530.

**Alberta Health Services (AHS)**

I am in contact with the local Alberta Health Director two to three times per week and the AHS North Zone Ops Centre daily. AHS – Seton HCC is presently operating below baseline and they do not foresee any issues in the future, they are well equipped with supplies PPE and staff. Their Emergency Pandemic Plan operates at 4 surge levels, they have the local capacity to operate up to and including Surge 3 at Surge 4 they would initiate a secondary Treatment Centre and bring in additional resources. AHS has been preparing for months and has an adequate supply of medical equipment available. AHS placed and received a large order for additional PPE and other equipment in January.



**Incident Command System (ICS)** is a command and control structure used to help manage incidents, and large events. It provides a framework for standard incident management response for efficient incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

Within the MOJ ICS ECC structure we have set operational periods at one week, we use the 'Planning P' process to organize the Command and general Staff meeting, Tactics Meeting, Planning Meeting and Operations Briefing.

**MOJ Objectives for this operational period:**

- Maintain Essential Services for the Municipality of Jasper (as per departmental Plans).
- Collaborate with Alberta Health Services and be prepared to respond to resource requests when required.
- Using AHS guidelines, standardize, document, and train staff in Covid-19 SOP's relating to hygiene, sanitization, social distancing, social isolation, and quarantine.
- Minimize operating costs while delivering Essential Services and Covid-19 Response services.
- Identify, establish, and maintain inventory of PPE required to protect all MOJ staff during Covid-19 response activities.
- Maintain current staff support programs and initiate additional systems to support the mental health of staff.

**Closing**

At this time the MOJ and community of Jasper is functioning within reasonable expectations during this very extraordinary and unpredictable crisis. We are closely following AHS lead and AEMA directives to maintain our objectives.

Our community is at a point where all of the non-essential businesses are closed. Grocery stores, gas stations and take-out restaurants are operating and reporting no major issues with either supply chain or human resources.

Sadly, most businesses are no longer operating; close to 35% of our workforce is unemployed, some individuals and families are dealing with financial stress and uncertainty; some seniors are experiencing more isolation and loneliness. Uncertainty surrounds all of us.

Nobody know how long this situation will affect us, we could be at this for a long time, we need to treat this pandemic emergency as an ultra-marathon not a sprint, we need to stay focused in the present but be prepared for a strong recovery in the hopefully near future.

As we navigate these new waters, please keep in mind we are all in this together, we need to stay positive, help our families, friends and neighbours, and help AHS by doing the right things.

Please do you very best to comply with public health guidance.

- Adhere to all AHS, Covid-19 health recommendations



- Wash hands regularly
- Don't touch your face
- Clean surfaces regularly
- Practice Social distancing, respect a 2-meter separation rule
- If you become symptomatic stay home self-isolate
- Do not gather in groups of more than 15 people
- Follow all other recommended AHS COVID-19 safety precautions
- Stay Positive

Thank you and thank you to the municipal staff, the businesses and citizens, you have all been exceptional through this terrible situation.