

COVID-19 INFORMATION UPDATE



Updated August 25, 2020

**TOWN OF PORCUPINE PLAIN
& RM OF PORCUPINE #395**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	Page 2
Saskatchewan Declares State of Emergency	Page 3
Town of Porcupine Plain Notice	Page 4
Medical Care.....	Page 5
Self-Isolation	Page 6
COVID-19 Confirmatory Testing In-Province	Page 9
Mental Health Contacts.....	Page 9
Child Care Services	Page 9
Resources & Supports	Page 10
Support for Individuals & Employees	Page 10
Support for Businesses	Page 13
Government of Saskatchewan Business Response Team.....	Page 18
Guides for Businesses.....	Page 19
National Research Council Programs	Page 19
Allowable & Non-Allowable Businesses	Page 20
Canada Post.....	Page 24
Saskatchewan RCMP	Page 24
SaskTel.....	Page 25
State of Emergency & Municipalities.....	Page 25
Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan	Page 25
Phase 1	Page 26
Phase 2	Page 28
Phase 3	Page 29
Phase 4	Page 31
Phase 5	Page 32
North East School Division/PP Comprehensive School	Page 32



COVID-19: Saskatchewan Declares State of Emergency

Released on March 18, 2020

The Government of Saskatchewan declared a provincial State of Emergency, giving the government broad powers to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes measures like the ability to limit travel to or from a community or region of the province and directing that property or equipment be deployed to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Health Officer, also made a number of new orders to reduce the risk to Saskatchewan people, prevent transmission and ensure that acute care services are preserved for residents most at risk for severe illness.

The following measures are effective immediately:

- Public gatherings larger than 30 people are prohibited. (updated July 28)
- Residents are advised to limit any non-essential travel outside of Saskatchewan, with the exception of people who live in border communities and are commuting for work.
- All crown utilities will implement bill-deferral programs allowing a zero-interest bill deferral for up to six months for Saskatchewan residents whose ability to make bill payments may be impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions.
- All Government of Saskatchewan ministries, agencies and Crown corporations will implement a phased-in work from home policy effective Monday, March 23, applicable to employees deemed non-essential. This means that any employees able to work from home should do so immediately, while providing managers a period to plan for work-force continuity.

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) will be discontinuing all non-urgent/elective surgeries, procedures and diagnostics as of March 23. This action will allow the SHA the ability to redeploy nurses and other staff and ensure medical supplies and personal protective equipment are available when needed and reduce risk of further exposure to our care providers and patients.

The SHA will continue to provide services to patients who require urgent care. Cancer and other urgent surgeries will continue as planned. Patients will be contacted regarding their scheduled service.

COVID-19 Information Online

Residents can go to www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19 for the latest information reorganized to make it easy for residents to find what they need. It includes information on travel guidance and preventative measures as well as information for care providers.

Visit www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19 and use the self-assessment tool to determine if you should contact Health Line 811.

Note that any use of the former URL will redirect residents to the new site. Public inquiries may be directed to COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca.

Town of Porcupine Plain Notice

Amid the recent COVID-19 concerns, council is taking careful measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 within our municipality. Our top priority at this time is to protect the health of our citizens and our staff. This means limiting physical interactions.

It is natural that we worry about new threats to our health, and we suggest getting up-to-date information from reliable sources, including:

Health Canada: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>

Saskatchewan Health: <http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

The Town office is open and operational at this time. The doors will be closed unless absolutely necessary. We are encouraging our staff to reduce the number of in-person meetings through alternatives such as video-conference, email, phone or postponing to a later date.

We want to give our residents the reassurance that we are doing our very best to put the necessary precautions in place to assist in stopping the potential spread of the virus throughout our community.

We are specifically:

- Requesting all persons stay home if they feel sick or have been in contact with someone that has traveled outside of Canada.
- Requesting that all employees and residents refrain from attending large events.
- Replacing in person meetings with telephone calls, e-mails or video-conferences to eliminate visitors coming into our office.
- Having our staff work remotely from home where possible.
- Cancelling non-essential business travel.
- Mandating self-isolation for 14-days for those returning from travel outside the country for employees and strongly suggesting all residents care enough about their neighbours to do the same.
- Requesting residents pay their water bills or taxes (if 2019 taxes are not yet paid in full) through online banking. One can also e-transfer payments to porcupineplain@sasktel.net but be sure to put your name in the comments field before sending. Note that water bills are not due until the end of April so there is no need to rush to the Town office to get the bill paid. As always, cheques may be mailed in for payments or dropped off in the drop box on the North side of the Town of Office.

This is an unprecedented situation that council is closely monitoring. As the situation evolves, we will continue to respond and provide updates. Please check back to our website for more information. In the meantime, we wish you and your family the best of health and we look forward to seeing you in-person in the near future.

Medical Care

Porcupine-Carragana Hospital

Visitor restrictions and other precautions are currently in place to protect all staff and patients. Entry to the Hospital will be permitted to patients only (not drivers, visitors, family, etc.). If you bring a child to outpatient services, one parent will be allowed to enter with the child.

After regular business hours, doors will be locked and will remain locked over the weekend. Patients requiring medical attention must ring the doorbell to let staff know you are there.

On Mondays, the doors will be unlocked, as long as staff are available for screening. However, visitors restrictions will remain in place.

Long-term and acute care are CLOSED to visitors, unless extreme circumstances arise. Families will be notified in such cases.

Phone 306-278-6262 for more information. Call 9-1-1 if you are experiencing an emergency. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, remain at home and call 8-1-1.

Porcupine Plain Medical Clinic

At this time, the Porcupine Plain Medical Clinic is conducting all non-urgent appointments via telephone and restricting the number of attendances at the office each day. The Clinic also has the capability to perform virtual appointments by way of secure online video chat; please call the Clinic for instructions if you wish to utilize this option.

The phone number for the Porcupine Medical Clinic is 306-278-2151.

Virtual appointments are in addition to virtual care by telephone, which provides residents with options for access to health care away from clinical settings during this time of elevated risk from COVID-19.

Pharmacy Services

Slobodian Pharmacy has implemented a number of restrictions and precautions to maintain the safety and wellbeing of their staff and customers. The pharmacy asks that customers please phone ahead to order prescription fills/refills and general merchandise to limit the customers' time spent in-store and restrict customer-staff interactions. Orders can be picked up or delivered. Please phone 306-278-2177 if you have any questions or to place your order for pickup/delivery.

Do you have questions about COVID-19?

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency has launched a dedicated, toll-free phone line for people who have questions about the COVID-19 pandemic that are not health-specific.

You can dial 1-855-559-5502 (306-787-8539 in Regina) between 6AM and 10PM for information ranging from government services to travel restrictions.

People who have symptoms or health concerns are encouraged to phone 8-1-1.

Self-Isolation

1. What is self-isolation?

Self-isolation is an important way of preventing COVID-19 from spreading in Saskatchewan. It means staying at home and avoiding situations where there is a potential to spread the infection to others: work; school; sporting events; social, cultural and religious gatherings; and public places such as restaurants and malls. You should also avoid public transportation.

At this time, it is recommended that, even if you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and have not traveled internationally, all individuals practice social distancing and isolation, and that all individuals refrain from attending anyone else's home, including family members. **It is recommended that you interact with only those who reside in your private dwelling.**

If you have traveled internationally, including from the United States, it is mandatory that you remain in self-isolation for 14 days. If you develop any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), call 8-1-1 and follow medical advice. During isolation, it is okay to be outside on your own property, including your backyard, patio or balcony, as long as you are not physically interacting with or near other people. Solitary walks are okay if no symptoms develop, and you can maintain a 2-meter distance from other people at all times. DO NOT touch shared surfaces (public access doors, handrails, elevators, etc.). DO NOT go shopping or to areas where you can touch shared surfaces; have someone else get your groceries, mail, etc. If you develop symptoms, DO NOT leave your private property and DO NOT have contact with others in your home.

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, follow the advice of your healthcare provider; seek medical care if you are deteriorating or you have difficulty breathing. It is okay to be outside on your own property, including your backyard, patio or balcony, as long as you are not physically interacting with or near other people. DO NOT leave your private property. DO NOT go for walks. DO NOT have contact with others in your home.

If you have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, including household members, you must self-isolate for 14 days from the last contact. If you develop any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), call 8-1-1 and follow medical advice. It is okay to be outside on your own property, including your backyard, patio or balcony, as long as you are not physically interacting with or near other people. Solitary walks are okay if no symptoms develop and you can maintain a two-meter distance from other people at all times. DO NOT touch shared surfaces (hand rails, public access doors, elevators, etc.). DO NOT go shopping or go to areas where you can touch shared surfaces. If you develop symptoms, DO NOT leave your private property. DO NOT go for walks. DO NOT have contact with others in your home.

**Specific healthcare workers, workers who maintain the supply chain, rail, airline or other working crews are exempt if they are required to work to maintain essential services and are supervised by Infection Prevention and Control Officers or Occupational Health and Safety in the workplace.*

Note: Mandatory isolation is not required if you have travelled within Canada. However, if you travelled on an airplane in the same row as a confirmed case, three (3) rows in front or three (3) rows behind, you should be self-isolating for 14 days. If you develop symptoms, call 811 and follow medical advice.

While it is not mandatory, the Saskatchewan government has also recommended that parties refrain from out-of-province travel at this time.

2. How long do I have to self-isolate for COVID-19?

All travellers returning from international destinations - including the United States - are subject to a mandatory self-isolation order. People who contravene the order may face fines of up to \$2,000, in the case of an individual, and not more than \$10,000 in the case of a corporation, under The Emergency Planning Act. Anyone identified by a MHO as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 shall go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from the date of having been exposed.

If you experience difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, chest pain or high fever, immediately call HealthLine 8-1-1 for assessment and direction.

For people who HAVE NOT contracted COVID-19, self-isolation is a precautionary approach used to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 from people that have been in an area of high disease spread or in close contact with a person with COVID-19. These individuals should stay home. Do not attend work; school; daycare; university; social, sporting or cultural events; or religious gatherings. These individuals may not have any symptoms or they may have mild symptoms that can be managed at home. If symptoms develop or worsen, call HealthLine 811 for assessment and direction.

For people who HAVE contracted COVID-19 self-isolation means the patient is considered well enough to not require admission to hospital and can remain in their home. Individuals should not attend work; school; daycare; university; social, sporting or cultural events; or religious gatherings. The patient should have the ability to care for their symptoms including being able to drink enough liquids. They should not have visitors to their home and should avoid contact with others that may be living in the same home.

3. It has been recommended that I self-isolate. What are my next steps?

- Stay at home and avoid contact with others (self-isolate).
- Call HealthLine 811 to receive advice about self-isolating if you have not already received advice from your local Public Health office.
- Remain in self-isolation for 14 days after travel or your last contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Call HealthLine 811 if you develop symptoms.

4. How do I avoid contact with others?

We know this is hard, but for the health of your family, friends and community:

- DO NOT go to work or school.
- DO NOT go to public areas, including places of worship, stores, shopping malls and restaurants.
- DO NOT have visitors to your home.
- CANCEL or reschedule non-urgent appointments; let them know you are on self-isolation.
- DO NOT take buses, taxis or ride-sharing where you would be in contact with others.
- ASK family/friends to drop off food or USE delivery/pick-up services for errands such as grocery shopping.

5. How do I prepare home for self-isolation?

Ensure the home is supplied with basic needs including food, medications (such as prescriptions), personal hygiene products, etc. to support a stay at home of up to 14 days. It is recommended that your sleeping area is separate from other members of the household.

If you live alone or your household is self-isolating, ensure you have someone who is able to check in on you and can provide an additional support or supplies you will require. Request that person to take all needed precautions to avoid infection.

6. What if I need medical care?

Pay attention to your health and how you are feeling. You can call HealthLine 811 anytime to talk to a nurse at and get advice about how you are feeling and what to do next.

- If you require urgent medical care because it becomes harder to breathe, you cannot drink anything or you feel very unwell, go to an urgent care clinic or emergency department. Call ahead if needing medical attention and notify reception once you enter a clinic or a hospital that you are self-isolating because of COVID-19. If you or someone in your care has chest pains, difficulty breathing, or severe bleeding, it could be a life-threatening emergency. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number immediately.
- If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, get tested, even if symptoms are mild. Symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath and generally feeling unwell. Call HealthLine 811 for directions for testing.
- Call ahead before you get medical care. If leaving your home for medical care, call ahead and tell the clinic you are coming.

7. How do I stop the spread of respiratory illness?

- Cover your coughs and sneezes. When you feel a cough or sneeze coming on, cover your mouth and nose with the crook of your elbow.
- Wash your hands right away after you sneeze, cough or touch used tissues or masks. Throw used tissues into a lined trash can in your room and tie up that trash bag before adding it with other household waste.
- Wash your hands. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. It is best to dry your hands with a paper towel and throw away after use. If you can't wash your hands, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Flush the toilet with the lid down. COVID-19 virus may also be present in poop (stool or feces). Always wash your hands with soap and water after using the toilet.
- Clean and disinfect common areas once a day. Clean surfaces in the room(s) that you are staying in with regular cleaning products. Then, disinfect (kill germs) by mixing one part bleach with nine parts water and applying it to areas that are touched often such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets and bedside tables. It is especially important to use bleach to disinfect if you are sharing any common areas (such as a bathroom) with others or if other will be entering the room(s) where you are staying.
- Avoid crowded public spaces and places where rapid self-isolation upon onset of symptoms may not be feasible.
- Avoid contact with vulnerable people. COVID-19 is more serious among the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. Avoid contact with these individuals while self-monitoring.

COVID-19 Confirmatory Testing In-Province

The Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory (RRPL) is now able to perform the confirmatory testing for COVID-19 in Regina. The samples were previously sent to Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This will speed up the testing process from “presumed” to “confirmed” in Saskatchewan. Priority testing is being done on all patients with respiratory presentations, long term care patients and those who have travelled recently or have had other mass gathering contacts where transmission has occurred.

A reminder from Dr Shahab, Chief Medical Health Officer is that “for all persons” now, the new normal in Saskatchewan is if you are out shopping or collecting take out remain two meters apart and practice social distancing and hand Hygiene. Do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth while you’re out and about – come home and wash your hands.

Mental Health Contacts

It is just as important to take care of your mental health during times of uncertainty. If you are experiencing anxiety or depression, please reach out for help.

- NE Outreach & Support Services Crisis Line 800-611-6349 or 306-752-9455
- Mental Health & Addiction Services 306-752-8767.
- Farm Stress Line 800-358-1833
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 306-773-7494.
- Al Anon – email district3rep@sk-Alanon.ca for info on joining Zoom (online) meetings.
- Sask. Assoc. Of Sexual Assault Services 306-934-1022.
- First Nations Helpline 1-855-242-3310.
- Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868.
- Emergency – 911
- Health Line – 811

Chat & Text Support

- Crisis line: Text “Home” to 686868.
- IMalive.org Crisis Chat
- RAINN.org Sexual Assault Crisis Chat
- TheTrevorProject.org LGBT Youth Crisis Chat

Child Care Services

The child care centres in schools were closed to existing clients as of March 20. Parents in those centres are receiving communication directly from their child care providers about changes. **Under the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, childcare facilities have begun re-opening to parents returning to work under the Plan.** Child care centres not located in schools are able to continue to operate as normal, and government funding will continue to be provided. Any changes regarding closures will be based on the advice of the Chief Medical Health Officer of Saskatchewan.

Resources & Supports

The Government of Canada has taken immediate, significant and decisive action to help Canadians facing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. For Canada's full Economic Response Plan, including resource and supports specific to seniors, those with disabilities, or Indigenous peoples, please visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

For our Provincial response, please visit:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/~link.aspx?id=380105922B1249708F22D35E974FE476&z=z>

A. Support for Individuals

CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

To Apply for the CERB, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html> or Phone 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041

The CERB will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 every 4 weeks to eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19. The Government of Canada [announced](#) a four-week extension to the [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) (CERB). Canadians expecting to exhaust their CERB benefits at the end of August will be able to access an additional month of support.

The CERB is available to workers who meet all of the following conditions:

- live in Canada and are at least 15 years old
- stopped working because of COVID-19 or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits
- have not voluntarily quit their job
- had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application.

On April 15, changes were announced to the eligibility rules to:

- Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
- Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their regular seasonal work because of COVID-19.
- Extend the CERB to workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job because of COVID-19.

An online questionnaire will help direct you to the service option that best fits your situation (i.e. eligibility for Employment Insurance benefits or not). Do not apply for the CERB if you have already applied for EI.

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html>

Changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) program were also [announced](#), including three new benefits:

-
- **Canada Recovery Benefit** – provides \$400 per week for up to 26 weeks to workers who are self-employed or ineligible for EI but still require income support due to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit** – provides \$500 per week for up to two weeks to workers who are sick or must self-isolate for reasons associated with COVID-19
 - **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit** – provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household to eligible Canadians unable to work due to family caregiving responsibilities that relate to COVID-19

SASKATCHEWAN EMPLOYMENT SUPPLEMENT

Provincial Government

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/financial-help/income-support-for-working-families-or-parents#benefits>

The Saskatchewan Employment Supplement (SES) provides assistance to families with lower incomes who have children. It is a monthly payment that supplements income from a job, farming, self-employment, or from child or spousal support.

To be eligible for SES you must:

- Have children under the age of 13 years;
- Receive more than \$125 each month from employment, self-employment, farming and/or child or spousal support;
- Reside in Saskatchewan and hold a valid Saskatchewan Health Services card.

CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individuals>

An extra \$300 per child was delivered through the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) for 2019-20. This benefit was delivered as part of the scheduled CCB payment on May 20.

REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUNDS

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

A reduction to the required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds by 25% for 2020. This will provide flexibility to seniors that are concerned that they may be required to liquidate their RRIF assets to meet minimum withdrawal requirements.

STUDENT LOANS

Provincial & Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid.html>

Suspending repayment and interest on student and apprentice loans

- All student loan borrowers will automatically have their loan repayments and interest suspended until September 30, 2020.

Changes to the Canada Student Loans Program

We made changes to the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) to allow more students to qualify for support and be eligible for greater amounts. The changes include:

- doubling the Canada Student Grants for all eligible full-time students to up to \$6,000 and up to \$3,600 for part-time students in 2020-21. The Canada Student Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities and Students with Dependents would also be doubled.

-
- broadening eligibility for student financial assistance by removing the expected student's and spouse's contributions in 2020-21.
 - raising the maximum weekly amount that can be provided to a student in 2020-21 from \$210 to \$350.

SUPPORTING STUDENT RESEARCHERS AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_FEE7261A.html?OpenDocument

We are providing additional support to student researchers and post-doctoral fellows through the federal granting councils. Funding will support a one-semester extension for eligible students whose research scholarships or fellowships end between March and August 2020 and who intend to continue their studies. It will also provide a 3-month extension in funding for holders of federal research grants to support eligible trainees and staff paid out of these awards.

CANADA EMERGENCY STUDENT BENEFIT (CESB)

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/emergency-student-benefit.html>

The Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) provides financial support to post-secondary students, and recent post-secondary and high school graduates who are unable to find work due to COVID-19. This benefit is for students who do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance (EI).

From May to August 2020, the CESB provides a payment to eligible students of \$1,250 for each 4-week period OR \$2,000 for each 4-week period if you have dependents or a disability.

Final eligibility period for the CESB is August 2 to August 29, 2020. All applications for the CESB must be submitted before September 30, 2020.

STUDENT WORK PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/student-work-placements-stem-business.html>

The Federal Government is providing \$80 million for the Student Work Placement Program to support up to 20,000 post-secondary students across Canada to obtain paid work experience related to their field of study. To participate in a student work placement you must:

- be registered in a post-secondary program that includes work placements;
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or person with refugee protection given under the law; and
- be legally able to work in Canada according to the laws and regulations of the province or territory where you live.

TAX FILING

Canadian Revenue Agency

The tax filing deadline has been extended to June 1, and all taxpayers are allowed to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX CREDIT

Federal Government

The Federal Government provided a one-time special payment through the Goods and Services Tax credit for low and modest-income families.

The average additional benefit will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples.

PASSPORT SERVICES

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

Allowing Canadians with urgent travel needs to obtain Passport Services, if they: • Have a serious illness, or must tend to the serious illness or death of another individual they have had a relationship with; • Suffer from economic hardships due to loss of job or business (the cost of an airline, bus or train ticket does not constitute economic hardship); or • Must travel for humanitarian grounds, supported by the requesting organization.

MORTGAGE SUPPORT

Canadian banks have committed to work with their customers on a case-by-case basis to find solutions to help them manage hardships caused by COVID-19. This includes permitting lenders to defer up to six monthly mortgage payments (interest and principal) for impacted borrowers. Canadians who are impacted by COVID-19 and experiencing financial hardship as a result are encouraged to visit their bank's website or contact your branch via telephone for the latest information.

The Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation and other mortgage insurers offer tools to lenders that can assist homeowners who may be experiencing financial difficulty. These include payment deferral, loan re-amortization, capitalization of outstanding interest arrears and other eligible expenses, and special payment arrangements.

Canada's mortgage insurers are committed to providing homeowners with solutions to mitigate temporary financial hardship related to COVID-19. This includes permitting lenders to defer up to six monthly mortgage payments (interest and principal) for impacted borrowers. Deferred payments are added to the outstanding principal balance and subsequently repaid throughout the life of the mortgage.

B. Support for Businesses

CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY (CEWS)

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) supports employers that are hardest hit by the pandemic, and protect the jobs Canadians depend on. The subsidy generally covers 75% of an employee's wages – up to \$847 per week - for employers of all sizes and across all sectors who have suffered a drop in gross revenues of at least 15% in March, and 30% in April and May.

The program will be in place for a 12-week period, from March 15 to June 6, 2020.

Employers who are eligible for the CEWS are entitled to receive a 100% refund for certain employer contributions to Employment Insurance, the Canada Pension Plan, the Quebec Pension Plan, and the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan paid in respect of employees who are on leave with pay. For employers that are eligible for both the CEWS and the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for a period, any benefit from the Temporary 10% Wage Subsidy for remuneration paid in a specific period will generally reduce the amount available to be claimed under the CEWS in that same period.

TEMPORARY 10% WAGE SUBSIDY

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html>

The Temporary 10% Wage Subsidy is a three-month measure that will allow eligible employers to reduce the amount of payroll deduction required to be remitted to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). You are an eligible employer if you:

- are a(n):
 - individual (excluding trusts),
 - partnership.
 - non-profit organization,
 - registered charity, or
 - Canadian-controlled private corporation (including a cooperative corporation) eligible for the small business deduction;
- have an existing business number and payroll program account with the CRA on March 18, 2020; and
- pay salary, wages, bonuses, or other remuneration to an eligible employee.

SASKATCHEWAN SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY PAYMENT (SSBEP) PROGRAM

Saskatchewan Ministry of Finance

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers/saskatchewan-small-business-emergency-payment-program#how-to-apply>

The SSBEP provides a payment to small and medium-sized enterprises directly affected by government public health orders related to COVID-19. Payments are paid based on 15 per cent of a business's monthly sales revenue, to a maximum of \$5,000. The **seasonal** SSBEP provides a payment for seasonal small businesses directly affected by government public health orders related to COVID-19; payments will be paid based on 15 per cent of a business's average sales revenues for the operating months in the previous year, to a maximum of \$5,000.

The SSBEP program has been extended to the month of May to provide payments to businesses that continue to be ordered to temporarily close or significantly curtail operations through a public health order following May 19, 2020. For additional information, email ssbep@gov.sk.ca or call 1-800-667-6102 or 306-787-6645 in Regina.

CANADA EMERGENCY COMMERCIAL RENT ASSISTANCE (CECRA)

The Federal Government reached an agreement in principle with all provinces and territories to implement the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses. This program will lower rent by 75 per cent for small businesses that have been affected by COVID-19. The program will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners to cover 50% of three monthly rent payments that are payable by eligible small business tenants who are experiencing financial hardship during April, May, and June.

The loans will be forgiven if the mortgaged property owner agrees to reduce the small business tenants' rent by at least 75% under a rent forgiveness agreement, which will include a term not to evict the tenant while the agreement is in place. The small business tenant would cover the remainder, up to 25% of the rent.

Impacted small business tenants are businesses paying less than \$50,000 per month in rent and who have temporarily ceased operations or have experienced at least a 70% drop in pre-COVID revenues. This support will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations.

It is expected that CECRA will be operational by mid-May, and further details will be announced soon.

CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT

The new Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), which was announced by the Government of Canada on March 27th, 2020 will provide up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits as an interest-free loan. The intention of this loan is to help cover operating costs during a period where revenue could be reduced.

BUSINESS CREDIT AVAILABILITY PROGRAM:

The Business Credit Availability Program will provide \$65 billion in support to businesses through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC). This program includes. This program helps Canadian businesses in all sectors and regions gain access to credit through EDC, BDC and private sector lenders. *Note: Businesses must go to their current bank first, then that bank will refer the business to the BCAP only if the bank isn't able to help them. Businesses that are already a BDC client, can contact their account manager for information on BCAP.*

- The new **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)** was announced by the Government of Canada on March 27th, 2020. It will provide up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits as an interest-free loan. The intention of this loan is to help cover operating costs during a period where revenue could be reduced. Please contact your financial institutions for more information.
- **Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)** through the EDC which could issue loans up to \$6.45 million
- **Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises** through the BDC which will co-lend and issue loans to up to \$6.25 million through financial institutions

FARM CREDIT CANADA LENDING

<https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/about-fcc/media-newsroom/news-releases/2020/lending-capacity-increases-to-alleviate-industry-financial-pressure.html>

Farm Credit Canada has been allowed an additional \$5 billion in lending capacity to increase the short-term credit available to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors. This will offer increased flexibility to farmers who face cashflow issues and to processors who are impacted by lost sales, helping them remain financially strong during this difficult time.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK OF CANADA (BDC) RELIEF MEASURES

Business Development Bank of Canada

<https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/special-support.aspx>

Effective March 18, 2020, new BDC Relief Measures for qualified businesses include:

- Working capital loans of up to \$2 million with flexible terms and payment postponements for up to 6 months for qualifying businesses;
- Postponement of payments for up to 6 months, free of charge, for existing BDC clients with total BDC loan commitment of \$1 million or less;
- Reduced rates on new eligible loans;

Additional details regarding Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) measures, including industry specific support, to be announced in the coming days.

WORK SHARING PROGRAM

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/temporary-measures-forestry-sector.html>

The Work Sharing Program is a three-way agreement that can be negotiated between Service Canada, the employer and the employee to provide EI benefits to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hour as a result of developments beyond the control of their employers. Changes to the program are:

- Extension of the maximum duration from 38 weeks to 76 weeks.
- The 30 day wait period will be waived for only those who have used the work-sharing program in the past. *Note: Applications take a minimum of 30 days to negotiate. If you do not have 30 days than this program is likely not for you.*

TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CANADA SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html>

The Canada Summer Jobs program provides opportunities for youth to develop and improve their skills within the not-for-profit, small business, and public sectors, and supports the delivery of key community services. Temporary changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program are being implemented to allow employers to:

- receive an increased wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100 per cent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee;
- extend the end date for employment to February 28, 2021;
- adapt their projects and job activities;
- hire staff on a part-time basis.

SUPPLEMENTAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PROGRAM

Federal Government

https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/ei/ei-list/reports/supplemental-unemployment-benefit/introduction.html#s1_1

The purpose of a Supplemental Unemployment Benefit Program (SUB) plan is to provide supplemental payments to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits during a period of unemployment due to: temporary stoppage of work, training or illness, injury or quarantine. Employers use SUB plans to increase the employee's weekly earnings during periods of unemployment. Payments from registered plans are not deducted from the employee's EI benefits. Payments under a registered SUB plan are not considered as insurable earnings; therefore, EI premiums are not deducted.

CROWN UTILITY INTEREST DEFERRAL PROGRAMS

Provincial Government

The Crown Utility Interest Deferral Program is waving interest on late bill payments for up to six months. The program is available to all crown utility customers.

WAIVER OF WCB PREMIUMS

Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board (WCB)

To provide further relief for all Saskatchewan employers, Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board will be waiving penalties and interest charges for late premium payments April 1 until June 30, 2020. This will be monitored continuously as the situation evolves.

THREE-MONTH PST REMITTANCE DEFERRAL AND AUDIT SUSPENSION

Provincial Government

Saskatchewan businesses who are unable to Remit their PST due to cash flow concerns will have relief from penalty and interest charges. Businesses that are unable to file their provincial tax return(s) by the due date may submit a request for relief from penalty and interest charges on the return(s) affected. Phone 1-800-667-6102 or email SaskTaxInfo@gov.sk.ca.

TAX FILINGS

Federal Government

All businesses are able to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any Income Tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as installments, under Part I of the Income Tax Act. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period. This measure will result in businesses having more money available during this period.

CHANGES TO EMPLOYMENT STANDARD REGULATIONS

Provincial Government

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/20/covid-19-financial-support>

In addition to changes made to the Saskatchewan Employment Act that introduced a new unpaid public health emergency leave and removed the 13-week employment requirement to access sick leave and the requirement for a doctor's note to access sick leave, The Employment Standard Regulations have been amended to:

- Ensure that during a public emergency, businesses will not have to provide notice or pay in lieu of notice when they lay-off staff if it is for a period of 12 weeks or less in a 16-week period.
- If an employer lays off employees periodically for a total of more than 12 weeks in a 16-week period, the employees are considered to be terminated and are entitled to pay instead of notice as outlined in the Act. This will be calculated from the date on which the employee was laid off.

ISC SUSPENSION ORDER FOR STRIKE OFF PROVISIONS

Information Services Corporation

<https://www.isc.ca/About/News/Pages/Director-of-Corporations-and-Registrar-of-Co-operatives'-Suspension-Order-for-Strike-Off-Provisions.aspx?Source=https://www.isc.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

The Information Services Corporation (ISC) has Suspended the Strike Off Provisions for non-profit corporations, co-operative and new generation co-operative entities. The suspension is meant to assist organizations that are not in a position to file annual returns and financial statements at the Corporate Registry due to delays in annual meeting caused by the restrictions and recommendations on public gatherings. To further lessen the impact of being unable to file in a timely manner, annual return late filing fees for Not-For-Profit corporations and co-operatives will be suspended.

FACEBOOK SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS PROGRAM

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/business/boost/grant>

The Small Business Grants Program is offering \$100 million in cash grants and advertising credits for up to 30,000 eligible small businesses in over 30 countries.

PST REBATE ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION

Provincial Government

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/18/budget-2020>

The PST Rebate on New Home Construction provides up to 42% of the PST paid on a new house contract up to \$350,000 (excluding land) for new homes purchased after March 31, 2020, and before April 1, 2023. This not only helps the construction industry, Saskatchewan's home builders and associated trades that are important job creators, it helps families afford a newly built home.

OIL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (approved, to be released)

Provincial Government

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/18/budget-2020>

The Oil Infrastructure Investment Program, a SaskFirst new growth tax incentive administered by the Ministry of Energy and Resources, will support new and expanded pipelines, as well as new pipeline terminals, to flow oil to markets.

C. Government of Saskatchewan Business Response Team

The Government of Saskatchewan has launched a Business Response Team to support businesses in the province dealing with the economic challenges resulting from COVID-19.

“COVID-19 has caused significant economic hardships for businesses as we all work together to reduce the spread of this virus,” Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “We know businesses have questions and this response team will help them navigate this uncertain situation.”

The Business Response Team, led by the Ministry of Trade and Export Development, will work with businesses to identify program supports available to them both provincially and federally.

An email address and toll-free telephone number have been created to provide businesses a single point of contact to help answer questions. A single window information webpage has also been developed for businesses to access information and receive timely updates on provincial support initiatives. The webpage includes information on both provincial and federal support measures, including the province's recently announced financial support program.

For more information, businesses can contact the Business Response Team by:

Phone: 1-844-800-8688

Email: supportforbusiness@gov.sk.ca

Web: www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses

D. Guides for Businesses

LABOUR PROGRAM AND FEDERALLY REGULATED WORKPLACES

Federal Government

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

An online guide for workplaces wanting more information on how to handle the virus in the workplace.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN TEMPLATES

Business Development Bank of Canada

<https://www.bdc.ca/en/articles-tools/entrepreneur-toolkit/templates-business-guides/pages/business-continuity-guide-templates-entrepreneurs.aspx>

Creating and maintaining a business continuity plan helps ensure that businesses have the resources and information needed to deal with an emergency. BDC has developed Business Continuity Plan Templates for businesses to plan for business continuity and mitigate the potential effects of an emergency

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.chamber.ca/resources/pandemic-preparedness/BusinessPrepGuidePanPrep2020>

Preparedness, not panic, is the best way to mitigate the risks posed by a COVID-19 pandemic to the Canadian economy and our citizens. The Pandemic Preparedness Guide includes links to the some of the most relevant and credible information, best practice tools and resources.

E. National Research Council Programs

The Government of Canada is taking strong and quick action to protect our economy, and the health and safety of all Canadians during this global outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The NRC is working with partners as part of the collective effort to help find solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak. For more information, visit: <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/research-development/research-collaboration/nrc-covid-19-programs>

- **COVID-19 Challenges Procurement Program (yet to be released)**

This program will post COVID-19 related challenges seeking near-to-market solutions from small and medium-sized businesses (fewer than 500 staff). NRC IRAP will partner with Innovative Solutions Canada to launch calls for proposals over the next few weeks to address challenges, fund development of solutions, and buy successful products and services needed to address COVID-19. Companies with promising technology relevant to the COVID-19 challenges can register their technology or product by visiting the link above.

Financial support is available from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) to refine and sell products or solutions to meet a COVID-19 related need.

- **Pandemic Response Challenge Program**

This program will build teams to address challenges requiring further research and development for solutions to meet COVID-19 related needs. The NRC will build these teams drawing on internal-to-government capacity and academic researchers (who register at the link provided) and related areas of expertise and capabilities.

Funding is available to help cover the costs of research for academic institutions, small and medium-sized businesses, and other eligible recipients participating in the challenge teams. Over the coming weeks, NRC will post the specific R&D challenges, send information to registered researchers, and invite them to indicate the expertise and capabilities they can bring to a team. Visit the link above for more information.

Allowable & Non-Allowable Businesses

Updated: July 24, 2020

The Government of Saskatchewan released a list of critical public services and allowable business services that can continue to operate in accordance with social distancing practices.

1. Critical public services include:

A. Health Care and Public Health Workers

- 811 and 911 call centre workers
- Businesses that provide products and/or services that support the health sector or that provide health services
- Canadian Red Cross and Canadian Blood Services
- Caregivers
- Chiropractic
- Dentistry
- Home services for seniors, the disabled and the vulnerable
- Occupations in health and social services
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry and Optician Services
- Laboratories and specimen collection centres
- Medical facilities
- Pharmacies
- Physiotherapy
- Physical Therapy
- Pre-hospital and emergency services (i.e. paramedics, dispatchers)
- Private seniors' residences and services
- Private professional resources offices (health network)
- Production, supply and distribution of drugs, vaccines and pharmaceutical goods and medical equipment, including laboratory and research centres
- Specialized resources in accommodation (i.e. domestic violence, homelessness, addictions)
- Therapy Podiatry

B. Law Enforcement, Public Safety and First Responders

- 911 call centre workers
- Administrative tribunals, boards and hearings
- Civil security, coroners and pathology
- Communication services
- Corrections
- Courthouse (staff required to maintain minimum operations)
- Emergency planning coordination, management and responders
- Fire alarm / sprinkler services
- Fire services
- Forest firefighters and all types of professionals supporting civil security operations

- Hazardous material responders from government and the private sector
- Legal and professional services that support the legal and justice system
- Police services, including the distribution of emergency calls
- Professional and social services that support the legal and justice system
- Special constables
- Security agencies
- Workers, including contracted vendors, who maintain digital infrastructure supporting law enforcement and emergency service options

C. *Government and Community Services*

- Academic and medical research
- All utilities (i.e. power, gas, water/wastewater, telephone) and service providers
- Resources deemed essential by the municipalities or First Nation Bands (i.e. administration, public workers, etc.)
- Animal shelters
- Air ambulance, STARS
- Asset management services
- Educators and support staff for emergency child care
- Food inspection
- Funeral homes, cremation and cemeteries
- Income security and social security
- Online higher education
- Providers of goods and services for vulnerable citizens
- Public health inspection
- Suicide prevention services
- Support services for victims of domestic violence
- Training related to jobs and critical public services
- Veterinary services and animal care (including animal grooming and boarding services)
- Waste collection, disposal and recycling

2. Allowable business services include:

- Production, Processing and Manufacturing and the Supporting Supply Chains, including:
 - Production, processing and supply chains of the mining sector
 - Production, processing and supply chains of the forestry sector
 - Production, processing and supply chains of the energy and oil and gas sectors
 - Production, processing and supply chains of the agriculture sector
 - Production, processing and supply chains of the manufacturing sector
 - Businesses, facilities and services that support and carry-out the two-way movement of essential goods within integrated North American and Global supply chains
- Transportation and Logistics, including:
 - Airports and any associated maintenance workers
 - Businesses engaged in or supporting the operation, maintenance and repair of critical infrastructure (i.e. railways, dams, bridges, highways, erosion control structures, etc.)
 - Postal, courier and parcel delivery services
 - Public transport and transport of people
 - Road construction and maintenance
 - Service stations and mechanical repair of motor vehicles, trucks and specialized equipment for industries
 - Taxis, ridesharing and paratransit services
 - Transport, storage and distribution of goods

-
- Media and Telecommunication, including:
 - Cable distributors
 - Information Communication Technology
 - Local media
 - National media
 - Telecommunications (network and equipment)
 - Construction Including Maintenance and Repair, including:
 - Building inspection services
 - Building maintenance, repair and housekeeping
 - Construction firms
 - Rental equipment
 - Services performed by trades people, residential and commercial installation services and landscaping services
 - Services, including:
 - Automotive dealers, auto repair and autobody shops
 - Bars, lounges, and night clubs (in accordance with the guidelines in the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan)
 - Boats, ATV, RV and snowmobile dealers
 - Businesses providing security services including private security guards, monitoring or surveillance equipment and services
 - Businesses providing staffing services, including temporary help
 - Businesses that supply office products and services
 - Cleaners, drycleaners and laundromats
 - Clothing stores
 - Convenience stores (except open prepared self-serve food products)
 - Flower shops
 - Garden centres, greenhouses and landscape retailers
 - Gas stations (except open prepared self-serve food products), diesel, propane and heating fuel providers
 - Gift, book and stationery stores
 - Grocery and other food stores (except open prepared self-serve food products)
 - Hardware, home supply and appliance stores
 - Hotels, motels, shared rental units and similar facilities, including student residences
 - Land registration services, real estate agent and real estate appraisal service
 - Medical supplies and services
 - Mobile, billboard and electronic sign services
 - Movers
 - Music, electronic and entertainment stores
 - Pawn shops
 - Pesticide applicators and exterminators
 - Pet food stores and supplies
 - Pharmacies
 - Professional services including lawyers and para-legals, engineers and translators
 - Rental and leasing services
 - Restaurants (in accordance with the guidelines in the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan)
 - Retail businesses as per the guidelines in the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan
 - Shoe stores
 - Shopping malls and their retail tenants

-
- Sporting good/adventure stores
 - Stores selling beer, wine, liquor or cannabis products
 - Soup kitchens, not for profit kitchens and religious kitchens
 - Toy stores
 - Travel agencies
 - Vaping supply stores (except for sampling)
 - Work equipment (safety and protection)
 - Banking and Financial Services, including:
 - Accounting services
 - Financial market services
 - Financial services
 - Insurance services
 - Payroll services
 - Additional Activities, Facilities, and Services from the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan Activities/Facilities/Services to operate in accordance with the guidelines in the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan
 - Arenas and rinks
 - Banquet and conference facilities
 - Beaches
 - Campgrounds, boat launches, and marinas
 - Car shows and trade shows
 - Casinos and Bingo halls
 - Child and youth day camps
 - Community gardens
 - Drive-In Theatres
 - Fishing
 - Food courts
 - Galleries
 - Golf courses
 - Graduation Ceremonies
 - Gyms and fitness facilities
 - Libraries
 - Licensed Saskatchewan outfitting camps
 - Live theatre
 - Long-term campsites with self-supporting infrastructure (sewer and water) in private campgrounds and regional parks
 - Movie theatres
 - Museums
 - Outdoor Individual Recreation
 - Performing Arts including live performances in restaurants, licensed establishments and farmers markets
 - Personal Service Facilities:
 - Hairdresser/barber
 - Registered massage therapist
 - Acupuncturist
 - Acupressurist
 - esthetician
 - tattoo artist
 - make-up application
 - electrologist
 - manicurist

-
- pedicurist
 - sun tanning parlour
 - facilities in which body piercing, bone grafting or scarification services are provided
 - other personal service facilities
 - Places of Worship
 - Playgrounds and Parks
 - Public markets and farmers markets
 - Public swimming pools, spray parks and other similar indoor or outdoor aquatic facilities
 - Racetracks and rodeo-related activities
 - Sports and activities
 - Seasonal and recreational outdoor sports and activities

PLEASE REFER TO THE RE-OPEN SASKATCHEWAN PLAN FOR UPDATES ON ALLOWABLE AND NON-ALLOWABLE BUSINESSES.

Canada Post

Canada Post reassures Canadians that it is prepared to carry on business with some adjustments. Post Offices will remain open with certain locations modifying the hours of operation. Customers will no longer need to sign for parcels at the door to minimize personal contact. Canada Post has suspended normal delivery guarantees for parcel service. Canada Post asks for the public's patience and understanding as these changes are implemented as these circumstances affect everyone.

Please practice social distancing when picking up parcels and mail. For up to date information go to: www.canadapost.ca

Saskatchewan RCMP

Saskatchewan RCMP is receiving calls for service regarding the COVID-19 expanded Public Health Order (PHO) issued on March 21, 2020.

We would like to reassure you that during the current rapidly evolving situation, our service delivery and commitment to keeping your community safe remains unchanged.

We are working closely with Saskatchewan Health Authorities to investigate calls for service that violate the PHO. To date, there have been no charges, fines or arrests by the Saskatchewan RCMP for these matters since the PHO.

We continue to work with Saskatchewan Public Health to determine the best course of action to ensure the safety of the public and our front-line officer.

COVID-19 Update and Your SaskTel Services

We've been closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and are following the guidelines set out by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The health and safety of our employees and customers is a top priority, and we've taken precautionary steps to lessen the currently low Canadian public health risk associated with COVID-19, including enhancing cleaning processes at all SaskTel locations and promoting everyday preventive behaviors with our employees across the province.

In addition, we have established strategies to ensure that critical business processes and operations are maintained during a potential COVID-19 outbreak in Saskatchewan.

For more information and to stay up to date on the latest changes at SaskTel that may affect you or your business, please visit sasktel.com/covid19.

State of Emergency & Municipalities

As part of the scope of the Provincial declaration, every Saskatchewan municipality is now under a State of Emergency. During a Provincial state of emergency, provincial emergency measures will supersede municipal orders. The Government of Saskatchewan had indicated that, in order to avoid confusion, it will vacate any municipal order that conflicts with the provincial emergency measures.

Please go to www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19 for the latest information.

Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan

Re-Open Saskatchewan is a plan built on a methodical and phased-in approach to slowly and responsibly lift restrictions on businesses and services. Flattening the curve and strengthening the system will remain priorities, as will our ability to manage the current COVID-19 pressures by building capacity in the coming weeks and months. Key elements will include increased testing and contact tracing, as well as the preparation of additional space and critical equipment.

Restrictions will be lifted in 5 Stages, with consideration given to socioeconomic factors and the risk of transmission. They will be implemented via public health orders and the timing will be dictated by evidence of transmission.

As restrictions are gradually lifted, the Government of Saskatchewan and its Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. Saqib Shahab, will carefully monitor the daily number of reported cases and other important indicators. They will also monitor to ensure that:

- Transmission of the virus is controlled;
- The provincial health system has enough capacity to test, isolate and treat every case, as well as trace every contact;

-
- Outbreak risks are minimized in special settings, such as health care facilities;
 - Preventive measures are established in place in workplaces, schools and other essential gathering places;
 - The risks of importing the virus from outside the province can be managed; and
 - Communities and businesses are educated, engaged and empowered to adjust to the new realities brought about by COVID-19.

The following recommendations should remain in place through all five phases:

- Protective measures for vulnerable populations.
- Individuals should continue working from home if they can do so effectively.
- Physical distancing must be maintained, wherever possible.
- People must stay at home when they are sick.
- Vulnerable individuals, such as seniors and those with underlying health conditions, should continue to exercise caution and minimize high-risk exposures, such as public outings.
- Personal hygiene will continue to be a key prevention measure.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection should take place in workplaces, public spaces and recreational facilities.
- Although the public health order regarding the size of gatherings does not apply to businesses and workplaces, they are expected to follow the recommended public health measures, including:
 - physical distancing for staff and clients;
 - regular cleaning and disinfection;
 - frequent handwashing and sanitizing;
 - use of PPE where available and appropriate; and
 - keeping staff who demonstrate or report COVID-19 symptoms out of the workplace.
- Long-term care and personal care homes must ensure that each staff member works in only one facility

Phase One:

Re-opening medical services (May 4, 2020)

- Allow public access to the following previously restricted medical services: dentistry, optometry, physical therapy, optician services, podiatry, occupational therapy and chiropractic treatment.
- Allow public access to medical spas for therapeutic services provided by a licensed medical practitioner for Saskatchewan residents. Increased infection controls must be in place. All cosmetic services will be restricted until Phase Three.
- All medical service providers will be required to continue to take precautionary measures as outlined by the Chief Medical Health Officer (provider and client screening, gloves, facemasks, etc.) when it is not possible to physically distance.
- Specific Guidelines for medical professionals can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Boat Launches (May 4, 2020)

- Specific Guidelines for access to boat launches in provincial parks can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Fishing (May 2020)

- A licence may be required to fish in Saskatchewan. Eligibility information is available at saskatchewan.ca/fishing.
- The Saskatchewan fishing season begins on the following dates:
 - Southern Zone – May 5, 2020
 - Central Zone – May 15, 2020
 - Northern Zone – May 25, 2020
- Specific Guidelines for fishing in provincial parks can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Golf courses (May 15, 2020)

- Providing a fixed date and clear guidelines allows operators to begin preparing for opening. Members of the public can prepare to access these facilities online.
- All golf courses are required to take precautionary measures, including expanding the cleaning and disinfecting of common and high-touch surfaces in accordance with the public health order.
- Physical distancing must be observed at all times, with a minimum of two-metres of space between individuals.
- Specific Guidelines for golf course operators can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Drive-In Theatres (May 15, 2020)

- Drive-in theatres will be required to take precautionary measures such as increasing cleaning and disinfection in washrooms, limiting food services to contactless pick up or delivery and ensuring physical distancing.
- Specific Guidelines for drive-in theatres can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Parks and campgrounds (June 1, 2020)

- Online reservations for provincial parks will launch on May 4, 2020.
- Providing a fixed date and clear guidelines for the opening of golf courses, parks and campgrounds allows operators to begin preparing for opening. Members of the public can prepare to access these facilities online.
- All golf courses, parks and campgrounds are required to take precautionary measures, including expanding the cleaning and disinfecting of common and high-touch surfaces in accordance with the public health order.
- Physical distancing must be observed at all times, with a minimum of two-metres of space between individuals.
- Overnight stays prior to June 1, 2020, are permitted for individuals with seasonal long-term sites with self-supporting infrastructure (sewer and water) located in private campgrounds or regional parks.
- Specific Guidelines for operators of parks and campgrounds can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Outdoor Individual Recreation (May 15, 2020)

- All outdoor recreation operations must take precautionary measures, including increased cleaning and disinfecting of common and high-touch surfaces, in addition to practising physical distancing.
- Specific Guidelines for outdoor recreation operators can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Community Gardens (Currently Allowed)

- Community gardens can be operational, subject to all physical distancing and public gathering restrictions.
- Precautionary measures must include the cleaning and disinfection of commonly touched areas, including water taps, gardening tools and other frequent touch points.

Other than in an allowable business, the size of public and private gatherings will remain at a maximum of 10 people.

Phase Two:

Re-Opening Retail (May 19, 2020)

- Retail businesses that were previously not allowed can begin providing services to the public, subject to the Retail Guidelines, including:
 - clothing stores
 - shoe stores
 - flower shops
 - sporting good/adventure stores
 - vaping supply shops (vaping and consumption of vaping products not permitted in stores)
 - boats, ATV and snowmobile dealers
 - gift, book and stationery stores
 - jewelry and accessory stores
 - toy stores
 - music, electronic and entertainment stores
 - pawn shops
 - thrift stores
 - travel agencies
 - marinas
 - u-pick produce

Shopping Malls (May 19, 2020)

- Shopping malls and their retail tenants may resume business subject to the Retail Guidelines.

-
- Shopping mall operators must implement measures to ensure appropriate social distancing in the common spaces of the mall, and queues must be managed with a minimum of two metres between people.
 - Washrooms may be open to staff and the public, but increased cleaning and disinfection must take place.
 - Food court facilities are restricted to pick-up and delivery service only. All seating areas must be closed.
 - Elevators must allow people to maintain two metres of separation. Escalators must be managed to maintain two metres between users.

Re-Opening Select Personal Services (May 19, 2020)

- Some personal service businesses can begin providing services to the public, subject to the Personal Care Services Guidelines, including:
 - hairdresser/barber (may wash, cut, style and chemically alter hair)
 - registered massage therapist
 - acupuncturist
 - acupressurist
- Re-opening these businesses will allow many small business owners to bring their businesses back online in a safe and efficient manner.
- All businesses and customers are expected to maintain physical distancing practices. Where it is not possible to provide personal services through physical distancing, service providers will be required to take precautionary measures, such as client screening, wearing gloves and face masks.
- Retail and personal services workplaces will need to follow guidance that essential businesses are currently following with respect to hand washing, intensive cleaning (particularly high-touch areas) and structuring stores to enable physical distancing. In order to meet these requirements, operators may need to limit the number of customers in the store.

Public Markets and Farmers Markets (May 19, 2020) *[updated August 5, 2020]*

- Public markets and farmers markets may begin operations with the necessary precautionary measures in place, including increased cleaning and disinfecting, restricting the number of people in the market areas and practising physical distancing.
- Complete Guidelines can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Phase Three:

Re-Opening Remaining Personal Services (June 8, 2020)

- Other personal service businesses can begin providing services to the public, including:
 - esthetician;
 - tattoo artist;
 - make-up application;
 - electrologist;

-
- manicurist;
 - pedicurist;
 - sun tanning parlour;
 - facilities in which body piercing, bone grafting or scarification services are provided; and
 - other personal service facilities.

Re-Opening Restaurant & Food Services – 50 per cent capacity (June 8, 2020)

- All businesses and customers are expected to maintain physical distancing practices.
- Restaurants, bars, lounges, food courts, cafeterias, cafes, bistros, and similar facilities are allowed up to 50 percent capacity of their regular capacity to respect limitations on the size of gatherings and physical distancing. Buffet service is not permitted.
- Recreation areas within restaurants and licensed establishments are not allowed. This includes dance floors, VLTs, pool tables and other areas where it is not possible to practice physical distancing.

Re-Opening Gyms and Fitness Facilities (June 8, 2020)

- All businesses and customers are expected to maintain physical distancing practices.
- Re-opening gyms and fitness facilities promotes physical and mental wellness. Physical distancing must be maintained and stringent cleaning and disinfecting protocols must be established.
- Clients over 40 years of age and those with underlying risk factors should use caution when considering visiting fitness facilities.

Re-Opening Licensed Establishments (June 8, 2020)

- All businesses and customers are expected to maintain physical distancing practices.
- Restaurants, bars, lounges, food courts, cafeterias, cafes, bistros, and similar facilities are allowed up to 50 percent capacity of their regular capacity to respect limitations on the size of gatherings and physical distancing. Buffet service is not permitted.
- Recreation areas within restaurants and licensed establishments are not allowed. This includes dance floors, VLTs, pool tables and other areas where it is not possible to practice physical distancing.

Re-Opening Childcare Facilities (June 8, 2020) *[updated August 5, 2020]*

- All facilities that provide child care services as defined in The Child Care Act, 2014, are limited to a maximum of 25 children per building space to allow parents to return to work. Restricting children to a single facility is mandatory to reduce transmission risks.
- All child care facilities located within a long-term care or personal care home must have a private entrance and separate space so there are no shared common areas. There must be no interaction between children and residents of the home. The facility may continue to operate subject to any restrictions placed on all child care facilities.
- Complete Guidelines can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Places of Worship (June 8, 2020) *[updated August 5, 2020]*

- These guidelines apply to all worship services, including celebrations of life, weddings and outdoor ceremonies, but do not apply to receptions or non-ceremonial gatherings. The

total number of people participating in the services cannot exceed 30 per cent of seating capacity or 150 people, whichever is less. To help ensure safety, individuals must be separated by two metres, unless they are part of the same extended household group.

- Complete Guidelines can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Re-Opening Parks and Outdoor Playgrounds (June 12, 2020) *[updated August 5, 2020]*

- Every person who visits a park or outdoor playground must follow public health orders in order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. People exhibiting signs of illness should not enter parks or playgrounds.
- Complete Guidelines can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Re-Opening Beaches (June 12, 2020)

- Complete Guidelines can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Increase the Size of Public and Private Gatherings – Indoor - 15 People; Outdoor - 30 People

Phase Four:

Part I – June 22, 2020

- Child and youth day camps
- Outdoor pools and spray parks
- Seasonal/recreational outdoor sports and activities

Part II:

June 29, 2020

- Libraries
- Museums
- Galleries
- Movie theatres
- Live theatres

July 6, 2020

- Indoor sports and activities
- Indoor pools
- Indoor rinks
- Performing arts

July 9, 2020

- Casinos
- Bingo halls

July 16, 2020

- Racetracks and rodeo-related activities
- Live performances in restaurants, licensed establishments and farmers markets
- Banquet and conference facilities
- Car shows and trade shows

July 21, 2020

- Garage and yard sales
- Door-to-door canvassing and sales

Increasing the Size of Indoor Public and Private Gatherings to 30 people

Complete Guidelines can be found in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Phase Five:

Consider Lifting Some Long-Term Restrictions (TBD)

- Options include limits on the size of public gatherings

Northeast School Division/Porcupine Plain Comprehensive School

To view the NESD Parent Guide – COVID, please visit:

<https://www.nesd.ca/covid19/NESD%20Updates/parent%20COVID%20guide%20NESD.pdf>

To view the NESD Return to School Planning Document (updated August 20, 2020), please visit:

<https://www.nesd.ca/covid19/NESD%20Updates/Reopening%20NESD%20-%20Fall%202020%20-%20Revised%20August%202013.pdf>

Visit [https://www.nesd.ca/School/ppcs/Pages/default.aspx#/=](https://www.nesd.ca/School/ppcs/Pages/default.aspx#/) for more information.

**For the latest version of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan,
Visit: www.porcupineplain.com**