

COVID-19 IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Topline:

- Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health, continues to **urge people to stay home, maintain physical distance and wash their hands frequently.**
- **Everyone has a role to play** in mitigating the impact of COVID-19. It takes more than governments and action from the health sector to protect the health and safety of New Brunswickers.
- **Physical distancing** is a measure which will help to flatten the curve to prevent over burdening the health care system with ill patients all at once. To ensure that this measure is successful only essential services that support critical infrastructure should continue. This means **minimizing close contact with others** and minimizing the amount of time spent in public spaces.
- It is important for **New Brunswickers who have been advised to self-isolate** based on the following to ensure they follow Public Health's directions to prevent the spread to others:
 - international travel
 - interprovincial travel
 - contact with a case of COVID-19
 - or suspected/ confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Since mass gatherings can increase the spread of infectious diseases and cause additional strain on the health-care system all mass gatherings should be cancelled.
- The Chief Medical Officer of Health recommended the closure of specific businesses and public spaces on March 17, 2020 until further notice.
- We must do all we can to prevent Covid-19's spread in New Brunswick. Many are adhering to voluntary self-isolation and **physical** distancing, but we know more measures are necessary.
- Unnecessary travel across the Canada-U.S. border has been reduced.
- All travellers returning to the province must now self isolate for 14 days.

Public Health's total number of positive cases for COVID-19 as of **Monday, March 30, 2020:**

- Testing at the microbiology laboratory at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton has identified **2 new cases**, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick to **68**.
- The number of negative tests as of March 30, 2020 end of day was **3,059**.
- Of the confirmed cases, **2 persons have recovered**.
- Further analysis is being conducted to determine additional details of the new cases including whether community transmission has occurred.
- The risk to you and your family remains relatively low, and the majority of people who do get sick will fully recover.

Air Canada Flight 8900 / Sunwing Flight 169

- Public Health has identified one confirmed COVID-19 case on each of two flights that came into New Brunswick;
 - **Air Canada Flight 8900 from Montreal to Moncton** on March 16, and
 - **Sunwing Flight 169 from Punta Cana to Fredericton** on March 18.
- All passengers on those flights should already be self-isolating. However, it remains vital that people on those flights continue to remain in self-isolation for at least 14 days.

Border Checks Process:

- People who have arrived in New Brunswick since the control points have begun at interprovincial borders can expect a follow up from law enforcement officials.
- There have been several reports of non-compliance whether at the borders or in the business community. We thank those who have made every effort to support our collective efforts to reduce community transmission of covid-19 and remind those who have not complied that fines will be applied under the emergency measures act going forward.
- Travel control points are now in place ensuring that the directive to avoid unnecessary travel is adhered to under the Mandatory Order of the Emergency Measures Act.
- Motorists, who are leaving and entering the province are required to follow the direction of Law Enforcement Officers by providing their contact information, driver's licence and reason for travel.
- Border checks are in place at points of entry from Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.
- We are pleased to hear that the screening points are working well, that people are understanding of these measures and that people are appreciative of the work meant to keep everyone healthy and safe.
- Secondary and tertiary points of entry to the province are being monitored and could be required to close as we work to further reduce unnecessary travel.
- Identities of travellers will be verified and contact information will be collected and destinations will be tracked for all travellers, including through-travellers.
- Regardless of where you are we urge you to avoid any non-essential travel.

Exemptions:

- As with the Canada-U.S. border, commercial traffic and essential services will be exempt so that services are maintained, and critical supplies continue to move across provincial lines.
- People exempt from these measures will include frontline medical personnel, police officers, firefighters, paramedics, members of the military and others.
- While other exemptions may be considered, our focus is on eliminating unnecessary travel.
- These measures take effect Wednesday March 25, 2020.
- Out-of-province travelers will be directed to self-isolate.
- Work is underway to staff and patrol the main entry points around-the-clock.

Playgrounds

- As of March 29, 2020 all playgrounds in the province are closed.
- Because of the pandemic, all school playgrounds and playgrounds associated with public housing facilities, are closed to support physical distancing requirements.
- The provincial government has ordered all municipal authorities to close their respective playgrounds. This directive is in line with actions taken by other government departments and

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agencies, including Early Education and Childhood Development and Social Development. Closures will be marked with appropriate signage and will be cordoned off with yellow tape, where possible, in order to protect the health and safety of your residents.

- Residents should respect these important restrictions and keep children away from any playgrounds.

New Brunswick Workers Emergency Income Benefit

- Workers or self-employed people in New Brunswick who have lost their job due to the COVID-19 situation are eligible to receive a one-time income benefit of \$900.
- Applications will be available online starting at noon on Monday, March 30.
- The benefit is intended to help to bridge the time between when people lose their employment or close their business to when they receive their federal benefit.
- To be eligible for the \$900 benefit, a person must:
 - have lost his or her job.
 - have been laid off, or be self-employed and have lost all revenue, on or after March 15 due to the state of emergency in New Brunswick.
 - have earned a minimum of \$5,000 (gross) in the last 12 months or in the last calendar year.
 - have lost his or her primary source of income.
 - have applied (or plan to apply) for support from the federal government (either Employment Insurance or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit).
 - have no other income.
 - be 18 years or older.

Canadian Red Cross Benefit with PETL:

- We are continuing to work with the Red Cross to provide a one-time income benefit of \$900 for workers or self-employed people in New Brunswick who have lost their job due to the state of emergency.
- The Red Cross has confirmed a website will be up by **Monday at 12pm** that will provide information and will allow people to apply for the benefit.
- Payments will begin on **Thursday**.
- More information about this process will be communicated as soon as it is available.

Canadian Red Cross previous msg'ing:

- As part of efforts to encourage social distancing and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Canadian Red Cross made the decision to close its offices and branches to the public, starting March 18, 2020.
- For Health Equipment Loan Program, they are delivering services by appointment only between 9am- 12pm if services are absolutely needed to be provided from an office.

Additional measures being contemplated:

- We must do all we can to prevent Covid-19's spread in New Brunswick.
- Many are adhering to voluntary self-isolation and social distancing, but we know more measures may be necessary. We are looking at that.
- People can expect to see more measures. Nothing has been decided upon, but nothing is off the table.

Compliance / Covid-19 Info Line:

- We thank those complying and making the wellness of all New Brunswickers a priority.
- Enforcement is being carried out across the province and is being stepped up with the goal of realizing full compliance.
- Anyone with questions or comments regarding compliance with the state of emergency declaration can call [1-844-462-8387](tel:1-844-462-8387) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or email helpaide@gnb.ca.
- **Peace Officers** with the **Department of Public Safety** are currently conducting compliance checks of businesses. The vast majority of the businesses checked have been in compliance.
- Anyone who violates, fails to comply with or obstructs any direction, or requirement made pursuant to the Emergency Measures Act commits an offence that carries a fine to a maximum of \$10,200.
- A toll-free information line and email address have been set up to help answer non-health related questions, including questions about compliance with the state of emergency. The number, [1-844-462-8387](tel:1-844-462-8387), is operational seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The email address is helpaide@gnb.ca

Business continuity compliance

- Every business has to do their best to adapt to the new conditions.
- Government doesn't want to stop all economic activity, but it does want very much to slow transmission of COVID-19.
- Every business is being asked to make a real effort to find a balance – it can't be business as usual, especially where that means human interaction within 2 metres, so many will have to adapt.
- The orders require very few businesses to cease operations, but challenge all to adapt to reduce risk (INFO PULLED FROM EMAIL TO PO/MLAs March 27 2020).

PEI Case:

- On March 14, a confirmed case of COVID-19 was identified in Queens County, PEI.
- The case has a history of recent cruise travel and air travel.
- Symptom onset was March 7, 2020, with symptoms including cough and runny nose.

Travel details:

- Celebrity Summit Cruise with travel from San Juan, Puerto Rico to St. Thomas, St. Marten, Dominica, Barbados, Grenada; March 1 to 7, 2020
- West Jet Flight 1157 from San Juan to Toronto - March 7, 2020
- West Jet Flight 3440 from Toronto to Moncton, NB - March 7, 2020
- Case was experiencing symptoms while in flight is currently at home in self-isolation.
- Contact tracing is on-going.

New confirmed PEI Case:

- New confirmed Covid-19 case who came from Italy.
- Flew Toronto to Moncton (WestJet flight 3456 arriving March 16 at 12:05) while symptomatic.
- PEI notified PHAC of the flight - PEI has since posted on their provincial website, indicated WestJet posts their flights.

Testing for Covid-19:

- Not everyone needs to be tested for COVID-19.
- Testing when there are no symptoms does not tell you whether the person will go on to develop COVID-19 infection nor can it be used to 'clear' someone to return to work or school.

George Dumont Medical Laboratory now able to report negative and confirmed COVID-19 Lab Results – no longer reporting “presumptive” cases.

- As you know, testing for Covid-19 has gone to **the National Microbiology Lab** in Winnipeg for verification and confirmation concerning positive Covid-19 test results. However, the lab at George Dumont is now fully equipped to analyze and report on Covid-19 related results.
- GDL negatives AND positives will now be confirmed at the GDL removing the step concerning presumptive cases and expediting results.
- The GDL successfully completed a proficiency panel built by NML to accelerate the validating process for a particular test.
- The reason they couldn't do it earlier was that NML was building the proficiency panel as we were already testing.
- The only remaining specimen that will continue to be sent to NML are indeterminate results (this is when the results is not strong enough to be a strong positive, but not completely negative either, usually, there's a follow-up test to help confirm)

Self-isolation:

- **On March 19, 2020, the Province of New Brunswick declared a state of emergency in response to Covid-19.**
- The general rules of self-isolation are to:
 - stay at home
 - monitor yourself for symptoms of Covid-19
 - avoid contact with others
 - follow local public health authority advice
- If there are others in your home, this means to:
 - stay in a separate room and use a separate bathroom if possible
 - keep at least 2 metres between yourself and other people
 - keep interactions brief and wear a mask
 - do not share personal items, such as toothbrushes, towels, bed linen, utensils or electronic devices
- **For those who have been told to self-isolate**, including New Brunswickers who are returning from outside the province, it is important that they stay in their home and avoid contact with people outside their families. **They should not be getting their own groceries or other supplies.**
 - At least once daily, clean and disinfect surfaces that you touch often, like toilets, bedside tables, doorknobs, phones and television remotes,
 - avoid contact with individuals with chronic conditions, compromised immune systems and older adults
 - avoid contact with pets if you live with other people that may also be touching them
 - If you develop symptoms isolate yourself from others as quickly as possible. Call TELECARE-811.
 - **But people are able and encouraged to step outside for a breath of fresh air – we all need that – without endangering their neighbours.**

Mental health and self-isolating:

- **Remember your feelings are valid, and you are not alone.**
- We're all in this together. Coronavirus may not be affecting everyone in the same way, but it is affecting everyone. **The Covid-19 outbreak is one of the greatest challenges our province has ever faced, but, we'll get through it the same way we get through everything, together.**
- This is the time to be sensible, to be prudent, to be kind. We must take care of ourselves and each other.
- Most of us have been forced to slow down our hectic day to day pace. Take this time as an opportunity to do things for which you usually don't have the time or energy. Call an old friend, just to talk. Watch old movies that make you happy. Tackle those household projects that have been on the to-do list forever. Journal, scrapbook, organize your photos.
- Several things are closed but outdoors isn't one of them! There are many activities that you and your family can do outside that still respect social distancing practices. Go for a walk or hike, do yoga in the backyard or look for signs of spring. Look after yourself physically and mentally.
- **Mind your mental health and protect yourself by limiting the amount of time you spend reading or watching things which aren't making you feel better.**

Social Distancing:

- All of us need to take every precaution to protect those at highest risk of severe COVID-19, while at the same ensuring that the most vulnerable among us are fully supported and not isolated.
- This is our chance, right here, and right now – we need to act immediately and act together to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 epidemic.
- **we can all take to slow spread/reduce impact of COVID-19:**
 - postpone or cancel non-essential travel outside of Canada.
 - avoid large gatherings/crowds.
 - distance 2 arm lengths (6ft or 2 metres) from others
 - if needed/possible, work from home.

Mental Health Messaging

- The outbreak of coronavirus disease can be stressful for people and communities. It is natural to feel stress, anxiety, grief, and worry during and after a stressful situation.
- There are things you can do to support yourself and your family.
- Connect with others - Share your concerns and how you are feeling with a friend or family member. Check in regularly with loved ones, especially with those affected.
 - Take breaks - Take deep breaths, stretch or meditate. Make time to unwind and remind yourself that strong feelings will fade. Try to do activities you usually enjoy. Maintain a sense of hope and positive thinking.
 - Get plenty of sleep, exercise, and eat well.
 - Sharing accurate information can help calm fears, manage anxieties and allow you to connect with others.
 - To avoid spreading rumors, use reliable sources of information.
 - Reliable sources for information include those that have a mission to inform and protect the public like public health authorities.

Tele-care 8-1-1:

- DO NOT visit a hospital, physician's office, or healthcare facility without consulting 811 first.
- Due to extreme caller volume, New Brunswickers are reminded to only call Tele-Care 811 if you experience COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) and have travelled internationally in the last 14 days.
- If you are not experiencing symptoms visit www.gnb.ca/coronavirus for more information on how to self-monitor, how you can protect yourself and what to do if you suspect you may be at risk. The web page will be continuously updated.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada has a toll-free number to answer your questions on COVID-1-833-784-4397.

Telecare 8-1-1 connection issues:

- This is an unprecedented time in New Brunswick and many people are relying on telephone conferencing for work and to connect. The issues with 8-1-1 are with service provider **issues with phone providers**, not Tele-Care 811.
- To relieve call volume and wait times for 8-1-1, **additional resources have been added** to establish an outbound call centre to assist in the follow-up calls as well as resources for inbound calls.
- The province has also **added a self-assessment tool to the gnb.ca/coronavirus webpage**. Visitors can use this self-assessment online tool to track any Covid-19 symptoms to determine whether they should then call 8-1-1 for further direction. In addition, a self-assessment tool is also available via automated messages when you call 811, press 1.

Food production

- Agriculture, aquaculture, fishing and processing operations are essential services and are permitted to continue; however, workplaces must take measures to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- In addition to operating loans for small businesses announced by the provincial government, the federal government announced earlier this week that it has enhanced Farm Credit Canada's lending capacity by an additional \$5 billion to ensure producers, agribusinesses and food processors continue to have access to capital.
- **Businesses facing financial pressure may call 1-888-332-3301** to discuss their situation and options.

School closures:

- New Brunswick's K-12 school system will be closed until further notice.
- **This closure status will be reassessed during the first week of April, in collaboration with Public Health.**
- Parents and students should not expect home learning options until April at the earliest.
- EECD is working with School Districts and professional associations to explore learning options.
- Parents and students are encouraged to focus on their physical and mental well-being.
- Resources are being assembled to share early next week to help guide and support efforts at home.

Daycare closures:

- In response to the decision to close daycares, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education has developed a response plan to support essential workers across the province and ensure childcare.
- Information for essential service workers will be available through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Parent Portal or by calling 1-833-221-9339.

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- Facilities operating to support essential service works will **follow the advice set out by the Chief Medical Officer**, including reduced group sizes, and social distancing. In addition, they will continue to follow strict health and safety directives.
- We continue to ask New Brunswickers to come together and support one another. Families, neighbours, and friends who are not in high risk categories are encouraged to work together to ensure childcare options are available for our essential services workers.

Health care professionals:

- Government, with its nursing regulatory partners, is working to identify former LPNs, RNs and NPs who may be redeployed into the workforce on a temporary basis to help with the current Covid-19 pandemic.
- This process is also being implemented for other health care professionals, using a similar approach, to help identify a potential pool of workers to supplement the current workforce.

Snowmobile/ATV Trails:

- The New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Club **closed snowmobile trails** effective Sunday, March 22, at midnight until further notice.
- The status of **ATV trails is under review**.
- Snowmobilers and ATVers are reminded **gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited** and **they should practice social distancing**.

Funeral homes gatherings:

- As per the Government of New Brunswick news release on Thursday March, 19, 2020 owners and operators of all other premises at which people may gather in large numbers will take all reasonable steps to **prevent gatherings of more than 10 people** and social distancing should be observed. This would include funeral home gatherings as well.

Excessive purchasing:

- We have seen signs of “panic-buying” – people purchasing excessive quantities of certain household goods - including food, cleaning materials and over-the-counter medications.
- Producers, wholesalers, transportation networks and retailers all have **plans to meet normal societal needs**. **Excessive purchasing is counterproductive** to that. It also creates problems for your neighbours by creating temporary shortages.
- By being mindful of each other, we will all manage this period with a sense of community and dignity.

Courts:

- The Chief Justice of the Court of Queen’s Bench has decided to adjourn jury trials in the interest of public health. The Government of New Brunswick supports that decision.
- We continue to work with members of the judiciary and other case parties to adjust to these exceptional circumstances.

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- This is a rapidly changing situation and we are continuously monitoring developments and assessing potential impacts on the justice system.
- Any mitigating plans being put into place by the judiciary are in the interest of public health and we support them.
- Our goal remains supporting efforts to slow or prevent the potential spread of Covid-19 while ensuring important case files move ahead in a timely manner.
- New Brunswick's judiciary has taken preventative steps and measures to protect the public and participants in the justice system from the spread of Covid-19 all the while adhering to the principles of timely access to justice and open courts. For more information please visit the Government of New Brunswick's justice website at www.gnb.ca/justice
- Preventative measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 have been implemented by all levels of the province's court systems including the Court of Queen's Bench, the Court of Appeal, and Provincial Courts.

Correctional Institutions:

- In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our correctional institutions, the province has closed all public access to these facilities, effective immediately.
- The restriction includes all members of the public, including inmate family members, volunteers and legal representatives.
- These measures include all facilities in the province; South-East Regional Correctional Centre, Saint John Correctional Centre, Madawaska Correctional Centre, Dalhousie Regional Correctional Centre, New Brunswick Youth Centre and New Brunswick Woman's Correctional Centre.
- Inmates will be offered extra phone calls during this time. Correctional Services will be monitoring the need to continue with this restriction and will be taking advice from officials with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

EMO & Public Safety:

- The province's Emergency Measures Organization is fully activated and working in collaboration to support all departments and communities responding to COVID-19.
- We are encouraged to see how many people are complying with the state of emergency directives and the innovative things they are doing to maintain community spirit.
- For many, going for a walk or drive is necessary for physical or mental health reasons. New Brunswickers shouldn't be doing so, however, for the purpose of congregating. All organized public events of more than 10 people are prohibited and people are reminded to practice social distancing.
- You may notice a high-than-normal enforcement presence in your community. Enforcement officers are on normal patrols.
- We would like to thank businesses for taking innovative steps to protect their workers and customers.
- New Brunswickers have a history of taking care of one another and the best way to help out during the spread of COVID-19 is through social distancing. Check in on friends and family through phone call, facetime and text. Decrease your trips to the mall, the gas station and grocery stores. By reducing traffic to these touch points, we can help to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- With warming temperatures across the province this week and expected as we go into the tail end of March, Riverwatch is fully operational with designated staff monitoring water levels across the province.

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- As we approach flood season we want to ensure New Brunswickers are not fatigued by the news cycle amongst other changes to their daily routines. Take care of yourself and others by getting enough sleep, exercising and by having nutritious meals.
- For those living in flood-prone areas who are struggling with changes in their daily routines, take advantage of your time at home to prepare your family and your property for flood season.

Work travel to the United States:

- Federal and provincial public health leaders have recommended that all travellers from outside of Canada self-isolate for 14 days. These efforts will slow the introduction and spread of COVID-19 to populations in Canada. At this time, exceptions are being made for certain individuals travelling to the United States from New Brunswick, but this is subject to change.
- At the same time, the continued global movement of goods and the ongoing delivery of essential services will be important for Canada's response to COVID-19.
- Consequently, an exemption to the request to self-isolate for 14 days should be provided to workers who are essential to the movement of goods and people. For example, this exemption would apply to:
 - healthy workers in the trade and transportation sector who are important for the movement of goods and people across the border, such as truck drivers and crew on any plane, train or marine vessel crossing the border.
 - healthy people who must cross the border to go to work, including health care providers and critical infrastructure workers.
- Workers in these sectors should practice social distancing (maintain a distance of 2 metres from others), closely [self-monitor](#), and [self-isolate](#) should they exhibit any symptoms and immediately call Tele-care 8-1-1 for advice.

COVID-19 Economic Impacts:

- Our top priority is the health and safety of New Brunswickers. Acting now to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) will safeguard our economy and ensure critical service delivery is maintained.
- The business community has an important role to play in supporting these efforts to prevent the spread of the virus by making choices to ensure their employees and their clients stay safe.
- Business owners should stay informed about the latest developments and follow the advice of New Brunswick's Chief Medical Officer of Health. A website with the latest guidance is online at: www.gnb.ca/coronavirus
- In New Brunswick, an all-party cabinet committee has been formed to ensure ongoing leadership, co-ordination and preparedness in responding to the health and economic impact of the virus.
- If you have any further business questions, please contact : nav@navnb.ca, call the Business Navigator line at 1-833-799-7966, or consult the [COVID-19 page specifically for businesses](#).

Government of Canada information Economic Aid:

- The Government of Canada also announced that it will be taking the following measures to support both employers and employees:
- Waiving the one-week waiting period for people who are in quarantine or have been directed to self-isolate and are claiming Employment Insurance sickness benefits. Information on eligibility criteria and the application process can be found [here](#).

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- Enhancements to the Work-Sharing Program to help employers who are experiencing a downturn in business due to COVID-19, and their workers. Information on the Work-Sharing Program can be found [here](#).
- Income support for those who are not eligible for Employment Insurance sickness benefits is also being explored.
- For more information on additional federal government support available to your business and workers, contact Service Canada at 1-800-OCanada (1-800-622-6232).
- Canada's regional development agencies, including the [Atlantic Opportunities Agency](#), has also announced support is available for small or medium-sized businesses impacted by the sudden shifts in the economy, and those who need pressing assistance, including:
 - Access to federal funding to help you stay in business.
 - Advice and pathfinding services to other federal programs and services online.
 - Contact: ACOA – 1-800-561-4030.

Social Development:

- Effective immediately, Social Development will waive the wait time for all applicants with a **prior income who are applying for social assistance**. Applicants may now apply immediately after their previous source of income has ended. This measure is in effect until further notice. Any further changes will be communicated as required.
- Effective immediately, Social Development will extend all expiring benefits such as: Health Cards, Extended Health Cards, Diabetic Supplies, and Over the Counter medications, etc. to April 30, 2020. This measure is to ensure that clients will not experience a disruption in benefits.

State of Emergency:

- The provincial government **declared a state of emergency** under section 12 of the *Emergency Measures Act on March 19, 2020* to enhance measures to help contain the spread of COVID-19 (the novel coronavirus).
- The health and well-being of every New Brunswicker must remain our number one priority.
- This declaration provides us with the tools we need to ensure the safety of New Brunswickers.
- We are taking this extraordinary measure to offer full support and power possible to assist the health-care sector fighting the spread of COVID-19 in the province.
- Following the recommendation of the chief medical officer of health, and with the support of the all-party cabinet committee, we are taking this extraordinary measure to offer full support and power possible to assist the health-care sector fighting the spread of COVID-19 in the province

As a result of this declaration:

- All lounges and special facilities licenced under the *Liquor Control Act* will stop admitting patrons.
- All swimming pools, spas, saunas, waterparks, gymnasiums, yoga studios, dance studios, rinks and arenas, tennis courts, soccer fields, climbing walls, escape rooms, ski hills, golf courses, arcades, amusement centres, pool halls, bowling alleys, casinos, cinemas, libraries, museums, zoos, aquariums, barbers, hair stylists, esthetics service providers, sugar bush operations, and theatres or other live performance venues will stop admitting members and the public.
- Schools, colleges, universities and private schools must be closed to students.
- Institutions which have students in residence are permitted to allow them to remain in residence until they can safely return home.

Other measures under the declaration of state of emergency include:

- All businesses in retail sales will stop admitting patrons, except: grocery stores; pharmacies; repair garages; post offices; financial and lending institutions; retailers of fuel, hardware and automotive parts; convenience stores; animal and fish feed providers; and corporate and agency stores of NB Liquor and Cannabis NB.
- All businesses required to stop admitting patrons are permitted to sell online or over the phone and to arrange delivery or pick-up of purchases.
- Every person directed by a physician to self-isolate will obey.
- Every person who has been outside Canada will self-isolate within their home for 14 days after their return to Canada, and, if they experience symptoms of COVID-19 during that period, will remain self-isolated until they are free of symptoms. This requirement does not apply to people exempted by the chief medical officer of health.
- Owners and operators of all other premises at which people may gather in large numbers will take all reasonable steps to prevent gatherings of more than **10** people and will ensure that those who do gather will be spaced appropriately as per guidelines of the chief medical officer of health.
- All organized public events of more than **10** people are also prohibited.
- This declaration provides us with the tools we need to ensure the safety of New Brunswickers. This is not a decision we took lightly.
- We are confident that these measures will result in New Brunswickers taking the necessary actions.
- We have chosen not to apply penalties to people who do not comply. However, if we have to we are prepared to apply penalties if people do not take these actions now.
- Other information related to the response to the virus includes:

Staying Home Saves Lives:

- With the recent rapid increase in cases of COVID-19, New Brunswick and Canada's window to flatten the curve is closing. The time for all New Brunswickers to act is now. Staying home saves lives.
- It is up to us to take actions that will slow the spread of the virus, and give our doctors, nurses and other health-care professionals the best chance to cope with its impact.
- Make the behaviors that keep yourself and others safe part of your regular routine
- Staying Home Saves Lives! Protect yourself and others from getting sick by staying home and practicing Social-Distancing. Remember these tips:
 - Maintain distance of approx. six feet (two meters) between you and others
 - Limit contact with others and avoid crowds
 - Keep your hands clean
 - Avoid contaminating common items and surfaces
 - Monitor your symptoms daily

Federal measures:

- The federal government has announced temporary income support for workers and parents without paid sick leave as well as longer-term income support for workers. Low- and modest-income families which may require additional financial help may apply for a one-time special payment through a GST credit. Families with children will be eligible for increased Canada Child Benefit payment amounts. For more information on these federal measures:
 - Canada Revenue Agency Accounts and Payments (individuals); 1-800-959-8281 (e); 1-800-959-7383 (f).
 - Canada Revenue Agency Accounts and Payments (business); 1-800-959-5525 (e); 1-800-959-7775 (f).
 - Child Benefit and GST credit; 1-800-387-1193 (e); 1-800-387-1194 (f).
 - Employment Insurance: To apply for EI benefits, [visit their website](#). After that, individuals may apply to have the one-week waiting period waived by calling the government's toll-free number at 1-833-381-2725, or teletypewriter at 1-800-529-3742.
 - Emergency Care benefit and Emergency support benefit: Both benefit plans will be open for application in April, through the [Canada Revenue Agency website](#).
 - Business Financing / liquidity: Finance Canada general enquiries 1-613-369-3710; fin.financepublic-financepublique.fin@canada.ca.
 - Export Development Canada general line 1-800-229-0575.
 - Business Development Bank of Canada general line 1-877-232-2269.

PETL Student Loan Information:

- We realize that this pandemic has caused unexpected hardship for thousands of New Brunswickers, including those who are repaying student loans.
- This week, the federal government announced they are placing a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans for all individuals currently in the process of repaying these loans. This will also be the case for provincial student loans.
- Effective as of March 30, 2020, New Brunswick will automatically suspend interest and payments on New Brunswick student loans for six months. No payment will be required and interest will not accrue during this time. Students do not need to apply for the repayment pause.

Ventilators:

- Currently in New Brunswick, we have 161 ventilators and are in the process of ordering 50 per cent more.
- With the recent rapid rise in cases of COVID-19, New Brunswick and Canada's window to flatten the curve is closing. The time for all New Brunswickers to act is now.

KEY MESSAGES

11AM Monday, March 30, 2020

- If we all behave responsibly, observe social distance and do our part to flatten the curve, then the ventilation equipment we have on hand in our hospitals, and any that we receive as the crisis continues, will be sufficient to meet our needs.

Blood donation:

- Canadian Blood Services is continuing to urge all healthy eligible donors to book and keep appointments. The need is constant for blood, stem cells, plasma and organ and tissue donors. Your donation can help save a life.
- More information on donating and COVID-19 is available at blood.ca/covid19. To make an appointment to donate, download the GiveBlood app, call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) or book now at blood.ca.
- As of March 16:
 - Anyone asked by public health to place themselves under observation or self-quarantine are not allowed to donate for 14 days from the date of their last contact with a case or suspected case of COVID-19.
 - Anyone with a case or suspected case in their household cannot donate for 14 days after the infected person's recovery.
 - Anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 are not allowed to donate for 56 days after full recovery from the infection.
 - Donors who have recently travelled outside of Canada should call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) when booking their appointment to confirm they are eligible.
- These measures help ensure donor centres remain islands of wellness within Canada's health system. **They are not places where sick people gather.**

Interpretative Guideline (State of Emergency):

- An Interpretative Guideline has been added online to provide **clarity and precision to the Declaration of Emergency and Mandatory Order** issued March 19:
 - Hotels, motels, inns and bed and breakfasts are not required to stop offering accommodation. They do need to reduce their food and beverage services to take-out and delivery, to close their pools, spas and saunas, and to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
 - Telecommunications providers are not required to cease operations. They do need to reduce in-person sales activities and to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
 - Construction and maintenance businesses are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
 - Call/contact centres are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
 - Cleaning contractors are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
 - Security agencies are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
 - Bussing, taxi and delivery businesses are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, to the extent possible for taxicabs.

KEY MESSAGES

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- Garbage removal, landfill and recycling removal businesses are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- News gathering and dissemination businesses are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Laundromats are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Food processing and packing businesses are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Production and manufacturing are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Law and accounting firms are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Veterinarians are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Plumbing, electrical and environmental cleanup businesses are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Appliance and home repair businesses are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Office supplies retailers are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. They are encouraged to drive as much business as possible to online and phone orders, with pickup and delivery.
- Vehicle rental businesses are not required to cease operations. They do need to apply all the social distancing and hygiene recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. They are encouraged to drive as much business as possible to online and phone orders, with pickup and delivery.
- The following retail sales lines of business are expected to stop admitting patrons immediately, but remain free to sell online and by the phone and to maintain pickup and delivery activities: electronics, furniture, appliance, vehicle. Automobile dealers are not required to cease their garage/service centre service operations, and online/phone sales and pickup/delivery activities are permitted. Showrooms must close to patrons and the public and test drives must cease.
- Paragraph 10 of the Order requires all employers to take every reasonable step required to prevent persons from entering workplaces who have travelled internationally in the previous 14 days. To be clear, this applies going forward: many workplaces have employees in them who returned to Canada and to work healthy before March 13, and employers are not required to remove them from their workplaces until/unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Where the requirement of 14 days self-isolation for workers has been exempted by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, these exemptions continue, including those granted before the issuing of the March 19 Order. (For example, this exemption includes truckers moving product between Canada and the US, where they are following CMOH guidelines to reduce risk while traveling.) There is no exemption for people who choose to travel to and from the US to shop.