



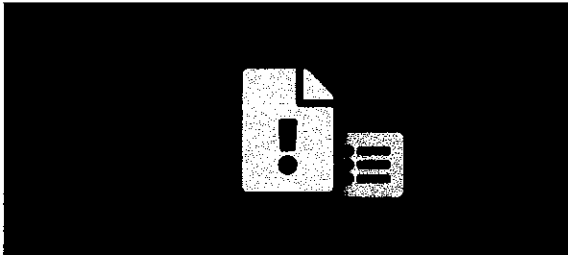
COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information

Our priority is to protect British Columbians and ensure our province is best positioned to effectively respond to the pandemic.

Last Updated: **March 23, 2020**

The British Columbia Centre for Disease Control is the best source for COVID-19 health information. [Get COVID-19 health information](#)

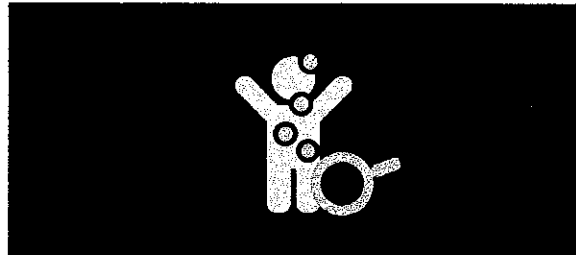
What You Must Do



Orders & Notices

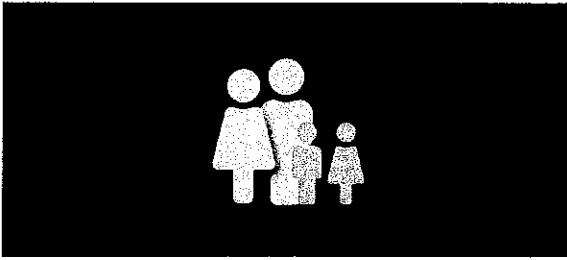
- You must follow Provincial Health Officer (PHO) orders
- In a Provincial State of Emergency, the PHO can make orders as needed

Check Symptoms Online



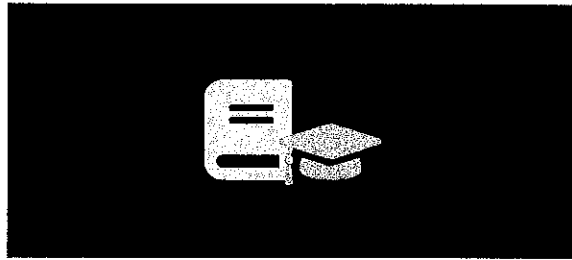
- If you are feeling unwell, you can check your symptoms online or download the self-assessment app
- These resources are available 24 hours a day

Child Care



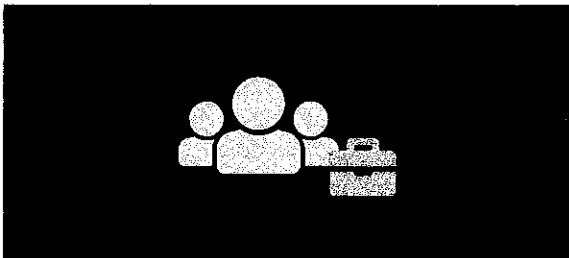
- Parents who can should care for their children at home
- Temporary emergency funding is available for child care centres

Education



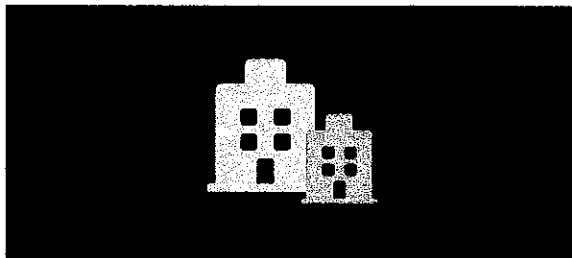
- K-12 learning is suspended in all classrooms
- Post-secondary in-person learning is suspended
- B.C. student loan payments are frozen for six months until September 30, 2020
- The Government of Canada has paused the repayment of Canada Student Loans until September 30, 2020, with no accrual of interest

Employment & Finances



- The BC Emergency Benefit for Workers provides a one-time \$1,000 payment for people who lost income
- A one-time enhancement to the climate action tax credit will be paid in July 2020 for moderate to low-income families

Businesses



- Some provincial taxes have been deferred, delayed or reduced
- What you must do if employees fall ill, are absent from work or your business is unexpectedly disrupted
- Economic resources for businesses
- Government of Canada support for businesses

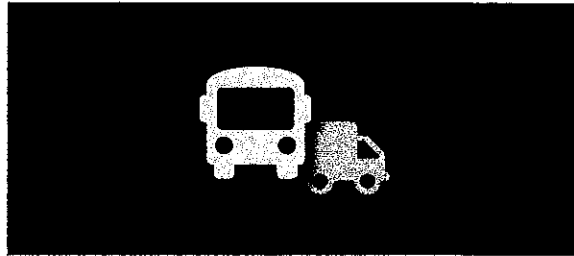
- Employers must excuse workers for sickness without requiring a doctor's note
- Taking time off work to deal with unexpected illness or life situations
- Government of Canada support for workers
- WorkSafeBC resources for workers
- WorkSafeBC resources for employers

Housing & Monthly Bills



- BC Housing has temporarily suspended evictions of tenants in subsidized and affordable housing
- BC Hydro customers can defer payments or access grants to help pay their hydro bills

Transportation



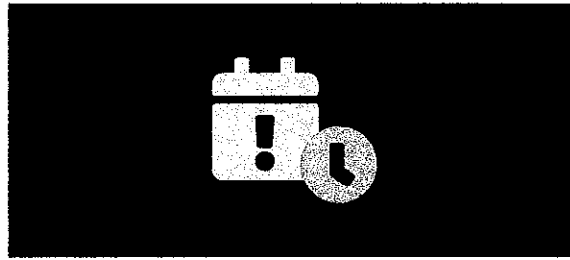
- BC Ferries is operating at reduced capacity
- ICBC insurance renewals can now be done by phone or email
- ICBC has postponed road tests and all other assessments
- ICBC customers can defer monthly payments for up to 90 days
- BC Transit fares and passes are not required in some communities
- Translink fares and passes are not required

Travel & Tourism



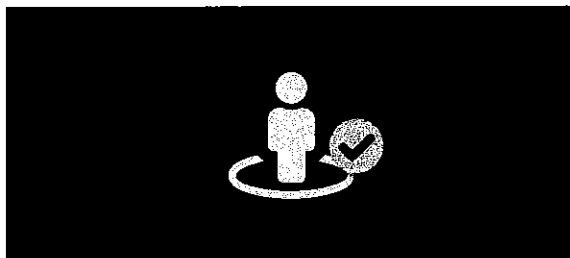
- People who have travelled outside of Canada and returned after March 12, 2020 must self-isolate
- Global Affairs Canada is offering emergency loans for people abroad attempting to return to Canada
- The Canada-U.S. border is closed to all non-essential traffic
- BC Parks campgrounds and accommodations are closed until April 30. The Discover Camping reservation system is suspended

Reduced Services



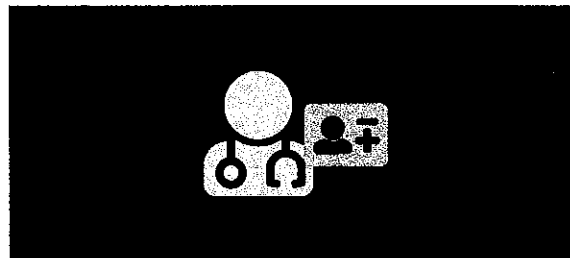
- Service BC centres remain open for core services
- BC Parks has suspended services and closed facilities in most provincial parks
- FrontCounterBC has closed all in-person locations
- BC Liquor Stores remain open with reduced hours
- BC Cannabis Stores online orders must be collected from a post office

Being Prepared



- Learn how you can personally prepare to stay at home

Healthcare



- The MSP coverage wait period is waived for those returning from COVID-19 impacted areas
- Five steps to manage COVID-19 stress, anxiety and depression

Contact

Talk to a ServiceBC agent about **non-health related information and services** such as

- Child Care
- Travel restrictions
- Business and funding support

[Text 1-604-630-0300](tel:1-604-630-0300)

[Call 1-888-COVID19](tel:1-888-COVID19)

Service is available 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific Time.

Canada:

[1-888-268-4319](tel:1-888-268-4319)

International:

[1-604-412-0957](tel:1-604-412-0957)

Standard message and data rates may apply.

Provincial COVID-19 News

Daily updates from Government and the Provincial Health Officer

- [BC Gov Newsroom](#)

secondary market. Similar to the increase in Government of Canada bond buybacks, this will support market liquidity and price discovery.

Economic Response Plan – Cost and Implementation

Economic Response Plan – Cost and Implementation

Measure	2020-2021 Cost/Impact	Implementation
Emergency Care Benefit	Up to \$10 billion	Early April *requires Royal Assent
Emergency Support Benefit	Up to \$5 billion	Early April *requires Royal Assent
GST Credit	\$5.5 billion	By Early May *requires Royal Assent
Enhanced Canada Child Benefit	\$1.9 billion	May * requires Royal Assent
Temporary Business Wage Subsidy	\$3.8 billion	Immediately Supporting legislation to follow
Canada Student Loan Payments	\$190 million	Early April * requires Royal Assent

Support for Indigenous Communities	\$305 million	April *requires Royal Assent
Support for people experiencing homelessness (through Reaching Home)	\$157.5 million	April *requires Royal Assent
Support for women’s shelters and sexual assault centres including on reserve	\$50 million	April *requires Royal Assent
Lower Registered Retirement Income Fund Minimum Withdrawal Amounts	\$495 million	Immediately Supporting legislation to follow
Total	\$27.4 billion	
Other supports		
Flexibility for individual and corporate taxpayers (tax payment deferral until September)	\$55 billion	Immediately
Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) through BDC and EDC	\$10 billion +	Immediately
Credit and liquidity support through financial Crown corporations, Bank of Canada, OSFI, CMHC and commercial lenders (e.g., Domestic Stability Buffer, Insured Mortgage Purchase Program, Banker’s Acceptance Purchase Facility)	In the range of \$500 billion	Immediately

Search for related information by keyword: [EC Economics and Industry](#) | [Department of Finance Canada](#) | [Canada](#) | [Diseases and](#)

[conditions](#) | [general public](#) | [backgrounders](#) | [Hon. William Francis Morneau](#)

Date modified:

2020-03-23