

## **RDN Open for Business, Closed to Public Access**

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) would like to thank residents for your understanding as we continue to follow the recommendations of the provincial health authorities. We are actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation and continuing to implement steps to support the provincial recommendations. The health and safety of our community is our top priority.

Recent updates on some steps the RDN has taken to support social distancing include:

- Effective at noon, Wednesday, March 18, 2020 all RDN Offices will be closed to the public. All RDN services will remain operational and staff will conduct business online, via conference calls, virtually or, where necessary, by appointment only.
- We encourage residents to seek RDN service via phone, email or the new building and bylaw web portal. Call the RDN at 250-390-4111 or 1-877-607-4111 or email [inquiries@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:inquiries@rdn.bc.ca) with questions or to schedule an appointment if needed.
- The RDN's new web portal is a convenient means of making building permit applications 24/7 without having to travel to the RDN office.
  - Inspection requests for portal applications can be made through the portal.
  - Residents can access the RDN web portal from home, office or mobile devices.
  - RDN staff are available for assistance by telephone or email.
  - [Click here to apply online.](#)
- The RDN Board will hold a Special Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 24 replacing their regular monthly Board Meeting. It will be held virtually. Members of the public are encouraged to listen to the meeting online. For those people in attendance, social distancing measures will be in place. This will be broadcast via audio only.
- RDN recreation facility closures include the Parksville Curling Centre, Oceanside Place Arena, Ravensong Aquatic Centre, and all RDN recreation programs. Recreation programs and events are cancelled at the Cedar Heritage Centre, Gabriola Recreation Society, Arrowsmith Community Recreation Association (ACRA).
- For the health and safety of our RDN Transit operators and customers, you will now be asked to board and exit using the back doors only. Customers with accessibility needs may still use the front doors. Please do not approach the operator. Customers who normally pay with cash or tickets will not be required to pay. Daily sanitization, cleaning and monitoring the number of passengers on transit buses will continue.

Don't forget our Regional and Community Parks are open. Visit our interactive [Parks and Trails Finder](#) or go to [rdn.bc.ca/find-a-park](http://rdn.bc.ca/find-a-park) for details on parks and trails in your area. The washrooms at these facilities are currently opened.

**Get Involved RDN!**

If RDN service levels change, the public will be notified through the [RDN website](#), [Facebook](#), [twitter](#) and local media.

Here are some steps recommended by B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) that we remind residents to take for the protection of your health and your communities health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, avoid others who are unwell, and stay home when you are sick.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touch surfaces.
- Do not share food, drinks, utensils, etc.
- Those returning from travel outside of Canada need to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days after they return.
- Anyone who is concerned that they may have been exposed to, or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, should contact their health-care provider, 8-1-1 or use the online self-assessment tool available at [covid-19.bccdc.ca/](https://covid-19.bccdc.ca/). Understand that most people don't need to be tested.
- Practice physical distancing and avoid group gatherings. The province has issued a ban on gatherings over 50 and a strong appeal for everyone to stay home during this critical time.
- Support friends, family and communities. Purchase groceries for those in isolation.
- Non-medical information may be obtained from 1 888-COVID19 (1 888-268-4319).
- The Province has assured everyone there are sufficient supplies and the supply chain is healthy. There is no need for excessive stockpiling.
- Search reliable sources for information [BCCDC](#), [Island Health](#), [Public Health Agency of Canada](#), [HealthlinkBC](#).

In the interest of public health and safety, we urge you to do everything you can to keep the virus from spreading and follow the health and self-isolation guidelines as recommended by the BCCDC.

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**For media inquiries, please contact:**

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