



March 19, 2020

Village of Tahsis Response to COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Village has implemented the following:

- Closed the Tahsis Recreation Centre and assigned staff to carry out a deep clean of the facility
- Closed the Village Office to the public while maintaining front counter services through phone, web and email
- Closed the Tahsis Fire Hall to the public
- Cancelled non-essential meetings and out of Village travel for staff and Council
- Approved staff to work from home
- Moved ahead with Council Procedure Bylaw amendments to facilitate electronic Council meetings
- Changed public participation at Council meetings to phone-in only
- Enhanced protective measures for personnel working at wastewater treatment plants
- Activated “virtual” Emergency Operations Centre to provide a coordinated response to this event
- Updated Village business continuity plans and emergency plans for critical infrastructure, including drinking water, wastewater and solid waste

These measures are consistent with the direction from the Provincial Health Officer and with the steps taken by other local governments and First Nations. They are aimed at reducing the risk of infection to staff and to the public and to ensure that the Village is positioned to provide essential services for an indefinite period.

The Village is doing its part to set an example for preventing the spread of infection. Everyone should be using hand hygiene, maintaining social or physical distancing of 2 metres and staying at home if you are sick or at a high risk for serious illness. This includes the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. The federal and provincial governments have also directed that persons who have travelled outside of Canada to self-isolate for 14 days.

This is the time to support our friends, neighbours, family and communities. Our amazing local volunteer groups are stepping up to ensure vulnerable folks have food and supplies during this difficult period. Please consider donating to or volunteering with the Community Cupboard, Good Food Box or the Tahsis Seniors Society.

The Village is coordinating its response with Island Health, BC Emergency Health Services and Health Emergency Management BC and Emergency Management BC, as well as other local and provincial agencies. There is a robust system in place to support our efforts to prevent the spread of infection locally. Thankfully, we are not alone.

Stay well and look out for each other,

Mayor Martin Davis on behalf of Tahsis Council