



Village of Warfield

Policy Title: COVID-19 Pandemic Response Policy Policy #: GOV 2020-12

Section: GOVERNANCE
Initially Approved: April 2020
Last Reviewed: N/A
Council Approval: _____
Next Review Scheduled: Sept 30 2020

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines and expectations for employees, Council Members and the general public regarding the implementation of preparedness strategies to plan for the scenario of significant community spread of COVID-19 and fulfil the Village of Warfield’s role in reducing the spread of the COVID-19.

POLICY GOAL:

It is the policy of the Village of Warfield to establish clear guidelines and expectations for Council, Staff, the general public and visitors of/for the Village regarding the implementation of preparedness strategies to plan for the scenario of significant community spread of COVID-19.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to Council, Staff, the general public and visitors of/for the Village of Warfield.

POLICY PRINCIPLES:

It is the goal of the Village to implement, when and where operationally applicable, federal and provincial direction, guiding principles and/or best management staff practices in order to help minimize the health, economic, and social impacts of this rapidly evolving public health issue, while at the same time, to ensure adequate levels of service are continued to be delivered within/for the Village.

The Village will focus its efforts on maintaining essential services.

Notwithstanding the Village’s Policy Review Policy, due to the rapidly evolving status of the pandemic this policy will be reviewed and revised when necessary as the direction and guidelines from the Province of British Columbia and the Federal Government of Canada change.

DEFINITIONS:

Self-isolation is a requirement for a person to remain at home, away from others and the workplace, for an extended period of time (usually 14 days), as it relates to the current provincial and federal guidelines related to COVID-19 virus. This includes symptoms of a cold or flu and self-isolation at home will last for 10 days after the onset of symptoms. After 10 days, if the temperature is normal and the individual feels better, resumption of routine activities may commence. The time period may be longer depending on the situation or as otherwise recommended by the BC Centre for Disease Control, or the Provincial Health Officer.

Essential services are determined by the Village of Warfield and includes services such as waste management, water and sewer, roads and streets access and finance.

High risk person is a person who is most vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus and are identified as those who have serious chronic medical conditions like diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, immunocompromised, and older adults.

PROCESS, REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES:

General Public

1. Effective Wednesday, April 15 , 2020, and until further notice, access to the Village office and/or any other Village-owned building or facility by the general public, visitors, and non-essential contractors/employees may be restricted at the discretion of the Village management staff. For inquiries and assistance, people should contact the Village office at 250-368-8202 to be re-directed appropriately. For emergencies and/or after-hours assistance, please call 1-250-368-1078.
2. General public and media attendance at Council meetings is limited to electronic media only as per Province of BC guidelines. Information regarding attendance at Council meetings will be posted on the Notice of Meeting, on the first page of the agenda package on the Village website at www.warfield.ca.
3. The Village will cancel current and future programs, events, activities, and undertakings if the Public Health Officials request community halls to close due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Upon written submission of a request to the Village, applicable refunds will be provided in full to the group and/or individual that originally booked the facility.
4. Further to Section 3 above, the Village will not be responsible for any group's and/or individual's third-party contracts or agreements that may be in effect and related to the event or undertaking that may have been previously booked by groups and/or individuals and subsequently cancelled or postponed by the Village.
5. The Village strongly encourages residents and visitors to use social distancing measures and to minimize close contact with others during the pandemic. In addition to staying home, people are strongly encouraged to practice proper hygiene techniques, limit outings to essential needs only, avoid crowds and gatherings, avoid shaking hands, sharing food and/or drinks, and limit close contact to those persons dwelling in the same residence.
6. Anyone that is considered "high-risk", feels sick or who may be exhibiting associated symptoms to COVID-19 is encouraged to seek medical attention and/or contact their healthcare provider and follow guidelines for self-isolation.
7. As per current federal travel restrictions, ***all travelers arriving in Canada from international points are required to self-isolate for 14 days*** as a precaution. This includes travels to/from Washington State and other US points.

Related Policies, Bylaws or Legislation:

Government of Canada, Public Health Services, Coronavirus Guidance Documents

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Province of British Columbia, British Columbia Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>