

May 8, 2020

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CIRCULAR TO MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL SERVICE DISTRICTS

On April 30, 2020, the Chief Medical Officer of Health announced the COVID-19 Alert Level System. This is a system which outlines measures that will be taken in a 5 level phase-in plan to protect the health and well-being of all communities in Newfoundland and Labrador. These Alert Levels will be phased in on a gradual basis with continuous monitoring of COVID-19. As monitoring is continuous, these Alert Levels may move up or down as needed based on data collected from Covid-19 cases in our province. The Chief Medical Officer of Health will be closely monitoring the situation in order to make decisions to lower Alert Levels.

An overview of the items relevant to Local Governments from each Alert Level has been provided below for your information. There may be municipal operations that are not public facing or are low risk and can continue if they are not subject to a specific public health order. Municipalities should reference the HCS website for more information on ensuring safe workplaces for their employees during this time.

Please note under the Municipalities Act (Section 24.1) Town Councils are required to hold a public council meeting once a month. Under Alert level 4 councils may now hold an in-person public council meeting provided the facility used can adhere to social distancing guidelines and the number attending is limited to a maximum of 10, including staff, media and members of the general public.

Council must ensure that citizens who are unable to attend the meeting are provided access to the proceeding. This can include video conferencing and/or teleconferencing. Public notice of such meetings must adhere to the requirements outlined in the Municipalities Act.

Alert Level 5: The province's current state with broad sweeping public health measures to protect the population.

- Campsites in municipal and privately owned parks are closed;
- Playground equipment in municipal parks are closed; and
- Outdoor activities, including walking, hiking, or riding your bike, are encouraged as long as physical distancing can be maintained and you are not required to self-isolate for any reason.

Alert Level 4: This level is tentatively scheduled to be phased in on May 11, 2020.

- Gatherings are expanded to ten (10) people as long as physical distancing can be maintained;
- Recreational angling and hunting are permitted;

- Golf courses can open with restrictions in place;
- Municipal parks are open;
- Playground equipment in municipal parks is not to be used; and
- Campsites remain closed.

Alert Level 3: Date to be determined.

- A further opening of public spaces and the expansion of gatherings to a maximum of twenty (20) people;
- Campsites are permitted to open for day use only, with restrictions on public spaces;
- Summer day camps can operate, with restrictions;
- Medium-risk outdoor recreational activities can resume (e.g., team field sports), spectators must maintain physical distancing;
- Outdoor pools can operate with a limited number of people; and
- Playground equipment in municipal parks is not to be used.

Alert Level 2: Date to be determined.

- A further expansion on the size of gatherings to be determined including funerals and weddings. In addition, places of worship are permitted to resume operations with restrictions;
- Gyms and fitness facilities are permitted to open, with restrictions;
- Arenas can open, with restrictions;
- Indoor pools can open, however some restrictions may apply;
- Campsites are permitted to offer overnight stays with some restrictions in place for public spaces; and
- Playgrounds equipment can be used.

Alert Level 1:

- This is the new normal. Consideration of lifting long-term public health measures will depend on the evaluation of the transmission patterns of COVID-19; availability of an effective vaccine and/or treatment; and a strong public health system.

This overview is a quick reference only for Municipalities and Local Service Districts. For further information, please visit: www.gov.nl.ca/COVID-19

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment appreciates the important work of our local governments and all community stakeholders. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your continued support and dedication to your communities during this extremely difficult time. Please continue to support the message of the Chief Medical Officer of Health regarding COVID-19 to ensure the safety of our residents and communities.



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