

Dear Fellow Sunshine Coast Residents:

Thank you to everyone who continues to take every precaution to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 on the Sunshine Coast. So many people are jumping in and helping with the effort across the Coast and it's really amazing to see.

We see people forwarding our Community Updates to others in the community (and across the province); donating, making or buying medical supplies; looking for ways to help others in our community; and finding creative ways to get the message out on social media (thank you Wilderness Crew!). With everyone working together we will have a chance to slow things down enough to make a difference. **Thank you!**

This morning the Sunshine Coast Community Task Force held a meeting to help coordinate the efforts of everyone on the Coast who wants to help our community get through this unprecedented crisis. It was really inspiring to hear the passion that people have for our community, and to know that we are not alone in this fight against a deadly and invisible enemy.

If you are looking for ways to get involved, please keep an eye on the SCRCD, Gibsons and Sechelt websites for more information. We need all the help that we can get!

For those of you who develop cold or flu-like symptoms that are severe enough to feel you need to see a doctor, but not severe enough to call 911, please call or text our new Respiratory Assessment Clinic at 604-740-1252 or email coastrespclinic@gmail.com.

The Respiratory Assessment Clinic is open seven days a week from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Please note that this clinic is only for people living on the Sunshine Coast and that it is by appointment only.

There are no new updates on the status COVID-19 on the Coast at this time. We assume that COVID-19 is here and based on what is happening everywhere else in the world, it is only a matter of time before we have our first hospital admission. Appended to this Update is a [summary of our current recommendations](#) for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our community. A printable version is available on the [Sunshine Coast Divisions of Family Practice website](#).

Moving forward, we will be shifting our focus to preparing our hospital for what is coming. We will continue to put out Community Updates, but they will likely be shorter and focussed on new information. If there is any significant change in the status of COVID-19 on the Coast or significant changes in our recommendations, we will let the community know immediately.

This does not reflect a change in the urgency of our message. It is vitally important that everyone does their part right now to try and prevent COVID-19 from gaining a foothold in our community. Given that it takes up to two weeks from time of exposure to development of symptoms, we won't be seeing the effects of our current measures for a few more weeks. Please be patient, please be vigilant and please be careful! Hopefully our efforts will be enough to make a difference!

Please check the Coast Reporter and the Local Weekly websites regularly for updates on COVID-19 in our community, and tune in daily on Eastlink Community TV at 5:30, 7:30 and 10:00 PM. Also stay tuned to Coast FM for breaking news on COVID-19.

Please visit the Gibsons, Sechelt and SCRD websites for daily updates regarding community services and our local response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keep well, wash your hands, keep your distance, and stay at home unless you have a medical emergency or another essential task!

The Sunshine Coast COVID Physician Task Force

-Dr Jennifer Baxter

-Dr Herman Mentz

-Dr Daren Spithoff

-Dr Ted Krickan

-Dr Brian Nelson