

COVID-19 IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Topline

- Law enforcement officials have been actively enforcing the emergency order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Most of those efforts have been focused on educating people so they are aware of what they need to do. In most cases, people are complying with the directives. There are a small number of cases in which officers have had to issue tickets. Nine tickets were issued over the weekend to people failing to comply with the emergency order. Fines can range from \$292.50 to \$10,200.
- A pandemic task force has been established by the provincial government to help combat COVID-19, the novel coronavirus.
- The task force will be vested with decision-making authority about the pandemic response for all aspects of the health-care system, including the regional health authorities, Extra-Mural and Ambulance New Brunswick, primary care, and the long-term care system.
- The province would like to remind New Brunswickers that in-person church gatherings are prohibited under the State of Emergency order. Mass gatherings can have the potential for serious public health consequences. They can increase the spread of infectious diseases and cause additional strain on the health-care system when held during outbreaks.
- Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health, continues to urge people to stay home, maintain physical distance and wash their hands frequently.
- Everyone has a role to play in mitigating the impact of COVID-19. It takes more than governments and action from the health sector to protect the health and safety of New Brunswickers.
- Physical distancing will help to flatten the curve to prevent over burdening the health care system with ill patients all at once.
- Since mass gatherings can increase the spread of infectious diseases and cause additional strain on the health-care system all mass gatherings should be cancelled.
- We must do all we can to prevent Covid-19's spread in New Brunswick. Many are adhering to voluntary self-isolation and physical distancing, but we know more measures are necessary.
- All travellers returning to the province must now self isolate for 14 days.

(DH) Public Health's total number of positive cases for COVID-19 as of Monday April 6, 2020

- Testing at the microbiology laboratory at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton has identified **2 new cases**, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick to **103**.
- **There is one case in Zone 7, which is the only positive case in the area.**
- Of the confirmed cases, **28 persons have recovered**.
- Further analysis is being conducted to determine additional details of the new cases including whether community transmission has occurred.
- The risk to you and your family remains relatively low, and the majority of people who do get sick will fully recover.

(DH/ECO) Credible and trusted sources

- Be cautious of what you see on social media, refrain from spreading rumours, and ensure the information you do share comes from trusted sources.
- The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health works closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada to ensure accurate information is provided as quickly as possible.
- Provincial and federal authorities are in constant contact with the World Health Organization, so that we can provide guidance based on hard facts, evidence-tested protocols and best practices learned in other jurisdictions where the pandemic is further advanced.

(DH) Personal protection equipment (PPE) for health-care workers

- The federal government will invest \$2 billion to produce necessary supplies, including ventilators, testing kits and personal protective equipment such as masks, face shields, gowns and hand sanitizer.
- We will continue to work closely with the federal government and the other provinces to ensure we have access to these supplies in New Brunswick as the demand increases.
- Dr Russell is urging the public not to obtain or use supplies made for the health-care sector stating that we have the medical supplies we need to meet the current demands of this pandemic but cannot afford to waste our resources. We must maintain our supplies and use them appropriately.

(DH) Wearing non-medical masks:

- New evidence suggests that pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic people could transmit the virus.
- The Special Advisory Committee on COVID-19 has come to a consensus that wearing a non-medical mask—even if you have no symptoms—is an additional measure you can take to protect others around you.
- In situations where physical distancing is difficult to maintain whether that be public transit or the grocery store a non-medical mask can reduce the chance of respiratory droplets coming into contact with others or land on surfaces.
- Wearing a non-medical mask in the community has not been proven to protect the person wearing it. It is an additional way that YOU CAN PROTECT OTHERS.
- Wearing a non-medical mask in the community does not mean you can back off the public health measures that we know work to protect you. You must continue to practice physical distancing and good hygiene, like frequent handwashing, and regularly disinfect high-touch surfaces.

(DH) COVID-19 transmission through facial pores

- Everyone habitually touches their face. This is especially dangerous when there is an infectious outbreak like COVID 19. Touching your face will allow the germs on your hands to enter the moist, porous tissue, via mouth, nose or eyes and cause infection.
- Increase your awareness of how many times you touch you face. Ask someone to tell you or record it yourself. Face touching is subconscious, so being aware will help you to avoid it.
- Identify your own personal face touching triggers, so as to better avoid them.
- Find other things do with your hands. Hold something else in your hands; make a fist; sit on your hands; put a scent on your hands to remind you not to touch.
- Keep reminding yourself that one way to protect yourself is to not touch your face.

(DH) Substance Use and COVID-19

- It is recognized that the public health messages for COVID-19 are hard to practice when people are struggling with problematic substance use or homelessness.
- COVID-19 infection (cough, difficulty breathing) may be made worse by problematic substance use where Fentanyl and other opioids can slow your breathing rate; COVID-19 may increase the risk of overdose death when using opioids. Remember there is some evidence that people can have COVID-19 and not know as they may not have symptoms
- BE aware that some early symptoms of withdrawal and COVID-19 infection are similar. These include fever and muscle soreness. Opioid withdrawal may make breathing difficulties worse.
- Prepare for potential supply disruptions. Have backup plans. Have all the necessary medications, food, and drinks needed to help detox.
- Most drug using behaviours can increase the risks of Covid-19 transmission; we need creative solutions to slow down the spread of COVID-19 and protect people who use drugs as they are at increased risk of serious illness or dying from COVID-19.
- Use basic precautions and harm reduction measures when possible:
 - Find “buddies” who can bring you food, harm reduction supplies, medicine, and substances.
 - Do not share supplies.
 - Clean surfaces with soap and water, alcohol wipes, bleach or hydrogen peroxide before preparing drugs if possible.
 - Carry naloxone and have an overdose plan.
 - Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use tissues.
 - You can consider using a non-medical mask to prevent you from coughing, sneezing onto others.

(DH) COVID-19 testing and new equipment

- Not everyone needs to be tested for COVID-19.
- Testing when there are no symptoms does not tell you whether the person will go on to develop COVID-19 infection nor can it be used to ‘clear’ someone to return to work or school.
- The province has received a donation from the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation’s COVID-19 emergency fund to upgrade testing and to purchase equipment.
- Seven locations across New Brunswick, in both regional health authorities, will have the capability to find out the results of COVID-19 tests faster. The sites will be in Edmundston, Campbellton, Bathurst, Miramichi, Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John.
- In addition, two portable Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Life Support Systems are being purchased. As COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, lung capacity and function can be severely affected. These machines oxygenate the blood, allowing the lungs to rest.

(DH) Self-isolation

- **On March 19, 2020, the Province of New Brunswick declared a state of emergency in response to Covid-19.**
- The general rules of self-isolation are to:
 - stay at home
 - monitor yourself for symptoms of Covid-19
 - avoid contact with others

- follow local public health authority advice
- If there are others in your home, this means to:
 - stay in a separate room and use a separate bathroom if possible
 - keep at least 2 metres between yourself and other people
 - keep interactions brief and wear a mask
 - do not share personal items, such as toothbrushes, towels, bed linen, utensils or electronic devices
- **For those who have been told to self-isolate**, including New Brunswickers who are returning from outside the province, it is important that they stay in their home and avoid contact with people outside their families. **They should not be getting their own groceries or other supplies.**
 - At least once daily, clean and disinfect surfaces that you touch often, like toilets, bedside tables, doorknobs, phones and television remotes,
 - avoid contact with individuals with chronic conditions, compromised immune systems and older adults
 - avoid contact with pets if you live with other people that may also be touching them
 - If you develop symptoms isolate yourself from others as quickly as possible. Call TELECARE-811.
 - **But people are able and encouraged to step outside for a breath of fresh air – we all need that – without endangering their neighbours.**

(DH) Mental Health Messaging

- The outbreak of coronavirus disease can be stressful for people and communities. It is natural to feel stress, anxiety, grief, and worry during and after a stressful situation.
- There are things you can do to support yourself and your family.
- Connect with others - Share your concerns and how you are feeling with a friend or family member. Check in regularly with loved ones, especially with those affected.
 - Take breaks - Take deep breaths, stretch or meditate. Make time to unwind and remind yourself that strong feelings will fade. Try to do activities you usually enjoy. Maintain a sense of hope and positive thinking.
 - Get plenty of sleep, exercise, and eat well.
 - Sharing accurate information can help calm fears, manage anxieties and allow you to connect with others.
 - To avoid spreading rumors, use reliable sources of information.
 - Reliable sources for information include those that have a mission to inform and protect the public like public health authorities.

(DH) Mental Health when self-isolating

- **Remember your feelings are valid, and you are not alone.**
- We're all in this together. Coronavirus may not be affecting everyone in the same way, but it is affecting everyone. **The Covid-19 outbreak is one of the greatest challenges our province has ever faced, but, we'll get through it the same way we get through everything, together.**
- This is the time to be sensible, to be prudent, to be kind. We must take care of ourselves and each other.
- Most of us have been forced to slow down our hectic day to day pace. Take this time as an opportunity to do things for which you usually don't have the time or energy. Call an old friend, just to talk. Watch old movies that make you happy. Tackle those household projects that have been on the to-do list forever. Journal, scrapbook, organize your photos.

KEY MESSAGES

Monday April 6, 2020

- Several things are closed but outdoors isn't one of them! There are many activities that you and your family can do outside that still respect physical distancing practices. Go for a walk or hike, do yoga in the backyard or look for signs of spring. Look after yourself physically and mentally.
- **Mind your mental health and protect yourself by limiting the amount of time you spend reading or watching things which aren't making you feel better.**

(DH) Physical Distancing

- All of us need to take every precaution to protect those at highest risk of severe COVID-19, while at the same ensuring that the most vulnerable among us are fully supported and not isolated.
- This is our chance, right here, and right now – we need to act immediately and act together to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 epidemic.
- **we can all take to slow spread/reduce impact of COVID-19:**
 - postpone or cancel non-essential travel outside of Canada.
 - avoid large gatherings/crowds.
 - distance 2 arm lengths (6ft or 2 metres) from others.
 - if needed/possible, work from home.

(DH) Tele-care 8-1-1

- DO NOT visit a hospital, physician's office, or healthcare facility without consulting 811 first.
- If you are not experiencing symptoms visit www.gnb.ca/coronavirus for more information on how to self-monitor, how you can protect yourself and what to do if you suspect you may be at risk. The web page will be continuously updated.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada has a toll-free number to answer your questions on COVID-1-833-784-4397.
- This is an unprecedented time in New Brunswick and many people are relying on telephone conferencing for work and to connect. The issues with 8-1-1 are with service provider **issues with phone providers**, not Tele-Care 811.
- To relieve call volume and wait times for 8-1-1, **additional resources have been added** to establish an outbound call centre to assist in the follow-up calls as well as resources for inbound calls.
- The province has also **added a self-assessment tool to the gnb.ca/coronavirus webpage**. Visitors can use this self-assessment online tool to track any Covid-19 symptoms to determine whether they should then call 8-1-1 for further direction. In addition, a self-assessment tool is also available via automated messages when you call 811, press 1.

(DH) Health Care Professionals

- Government, with its nursing regulatory partners, is working to identify former LPNs, RNs and NPs who may be redeployed into the workforce on a temporary basis to help with the current Covid-19 pandemic.
- This process is also being implemented for other health care professionals, using a similar approach, to help identify a potential pool of workers to supplement the current workforce.

(DH) Ventilators

- Currently in New Brunswick, we have 161 ventilators and are in the process of ordering 50 per cent more.
- With the recent rapid rise in cases of COVID-19, New Brunswick and Canada's window to flatten the curve is closing. The time for all New Brunswickers to act is now.
- If we all behave responsibly, observe social distance and do our part to flatten the curve, then the ventilation equipment we have on hand in our hospitals, and any that we receive as the crisis continues, will be sufficient to meet our needs.

(DH) Blood donation

- Canadian Blood Services is continuing to urge all healthy eligible donors to book and keep appointments. The need is constant for blood, stem cells, plasma and organ and tissue donors. Your donation can help save a life.
- More information on donating and COVID-19 is available at blood.ca/covid19. To make an appointment to donate, download the GiveBlood app, call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) or book now at blood.ca.
- As of March 16:
 - Anyone asked by public health to place themselves under observation or self-quarantine are not allowed to donate for 14 days from the date of their last contact with a case or suspected case of COVID-19.
 - Anyone with a case or suspected case in their household cannot donate for 14 days after the infected person's recovery.
 - Anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 are not allowed to donate for 56 days after full recovery from the infection.
 - Donors who have recently travelled outside of Canada should call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) when booking their appointment to confirm they are eligible.
- These measures help ensure donor centres remain islands of wellness within Canada's health system. **They are not places where sick people gather.**

(DH/ECO) Staying Home Saves Lives

- With the recent rapid increase in cases of COVID-19, New Brunswick and Canada's window to flatten the curve is closing. The time for all New Brunswickers to act is now. Staying home saves lives.
- It is up to us to take actions that will slow the spread of the virus, and give our doctors, nurses and other health-care professionals the best chance to cope with its impact.
- Make the behaviors that keep yourself and others safe part of your regular routine
- Staying Home Saves Lives! Protect yourself and others from getting sick by staying home and practicing Social-Distancing. Remember these tips:
 - Maintain distance of approx. six feet (two meters) between you and others
 - Limit contact with others and avoid crowds
 - Keep your hands clean
 - Avoid contaminating common items and surfaces
 - Monitor your symptoms daily

(DAAF) Food production

- Agriculture, aquaculture, fishing and processing operations are essential services and are permitted to continue; however, workplaces must take measures to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- In addition to operating loans for small businesses announced by the provincial government, on **March 23**, the federal government announced that it had enhanced Farm Credit Canada's lending capacity by an additional \$5 billion to ensure producers, agribusinesses and food processors continue to have access to capital.
- Businesses facing financial pressure may call 1-888-332-3301 to discuss their situation and options.

(EMO / Public Safety) renewed and revised mandatory order

- The state of emergency declaration issued on March 19 has been extended for another 14 days, as of April 2, 2020 with the approval of the all-party cabinet committee on COVID-19 and the cabinet.
- The provincial government revised the mandatory order under the *Emergency Measures Act on April 02, 2020*. The new sections include:
 - Campgrounds have been added to the list of business operations that are prohibited from admitting patrons for a two-week period. The owners and managers of premises that permit the seasonal docking of multiple recreational vessels must either prohibit docking or take steps to ensure minimal interaction of people.
 - Owners and occupiers of land are now responsible to take all reasonable steps to prevent social or recreational gatherings.
 - Open fires are prohibited until May 1.
 - Adjustments have been made at the new border control points to allow people to get to work, to see their children, and to access necessities.
 - Everyone is prohibited from knowingly approaching within two metres of another person, except members of their household or as needed for work.
- The latest version of the declaration [is available online](#).

(EMO/Public Safety) Border Checks Process

- Residents are reminded to self-isolate at home and to comply with restrictions imposed under the state of emergency. This means keeping travel to a strict minimum. Enforcement officers are now fining people for violating the mandatory order. Failing to obey the order has serious consequences, with fines ranging from \$292.50 to \$10,200.
- Although all playgrounds in the province are closed, some municipal public parks and walking trails remain open as long as physical and social distancing measures are followed. People are reminded to keep at least two metres from others at all times, do not form a crowd, and, if they witness non-compliant gatherings, contact a peace officer by calling 1-844-462-8387 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).
- We are moving from education to enforcement to protect the lives of our residents. Those who are not following provincial orders and those gathering in closed parks will be fined.
- Residents are reminded to self-isolate at home and to comply with restrictions imposed under the state of emergency. This means keeping travel to a strict minimum. Enforcement officers are now fining people for violating the mandatory order. Failing to obey the order has serious consequences, with fines ranging from \$292.50 to \$10,200. Although all playgrounds in the

province are closed, some municipal public parks and walking trails remain open as long as physical and social distancing measures are followed. People are reminded to keep at least two metres from others at all times, do not form a crowd, and, if they witness non-compliant gatherings, contact a peace officer by calling 1-844-462-8387 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

- People who have arrived in New Brunswick since the border control points began on **March 25** can expect a follow up from law enforcement officials.
- Out-of-province travelers will be directed to self-isolate.
- Secondary and tertiary points of entry to the province are being monitored and could be required to close as we work to further reduce unnecessary travel.
- There have been several reports of non-compliance whether at the borders or in the business community. We thank those who have made every effort to support our collective efforts to reduce community transmission of covid-19 and remind those who have not complied that fines will be applied under the emergency measures act going forward.
- Motorists, who are leaving and entering the province are required to follow the direction of Law Enforcement Officers by providing their contact information, driver's licence and reason for travel. Identities of travellers will be verified and contact information will be collected and destinations will be tracked for all travellers, including through-travellers.
- We are pleased to hear that the screening points are working well, that people are understanding of these measures and that people are appreciative of the work meant to keep everyone healthy and safe.
- Regardless of where you are we urge you to avoid any non-essential travel.

(EMO & Public Safety) Exemptions

- As with the Canada-U.S. border, commercial traffic and essential services will be exempt so that services are maintained, and critical supplies continue to move across provincial lines.
- People exempt from these measures will include frontline medical personnel, police officers, firefighters, paramedics, members of the military and others.
- While other exemptions may be considered, our focus is on eliminating unnecessary travel.
- Work is underway to staff and patrol the main entry points around-the-clock.

(EMO & Public Safety)

- The province's Emergency Measures Organization is fully activated and working in collaboration to support all departments and communities responding to COVID-19.
- We are encouraged to see how many people are complying with the state of emergency directives and the innovative things they are doing to maintain community spirit.
- For many, going for a walk or drive is necessary for physical or mental health reasons. New Brunswickers shouldn't be doing so, however, for the purpose of congregating. All organized public events of more than 10 people are prohibited, and people are reminded to practice physical distancing.
- You may notice a higher-than-normal enforcement presence in your community. Enforcement officers are on normal patrols.
- New Brunswickers have a history of taking care of one another and the best way to help out during the spread of COVID-19 is through physical distancing. Check in on friends and family through phone call, facetime and text. Decrease your trips to the mall, the gas station and grocery stores. By reducing traffic to these touch points, we can help to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- People can expect to see more measures. Nothing has been decided upon, but nothing is off the table.

(EMO) 2020 Riverwatch

- NBEMO remains activated to manage the whole of government and whole of society response to COVID-19 and launched its River Watch program on March 9. NBEMO as well as its River Watch partners are also monitoring river conditions. The Hydrology Centre is producing flood forecasts, which are available at www.gnb.ca/riverwatch
- As we approach flood season we want to ensure New Brunswickers are not fatigued by the news cycle amongst other changes to their daily routines. Take care of yourself and others by getting enough sleep, exercising and by having nutritious meals.
- For those living in flood-prone areas who are struggling with changes in their daily routines, take advantage of your time at home to prepare your family and your property for flood season.

(EMO/ EECD/ ELG / SD) Playgrounds

- All playgrounds have been closed in New Brunswick. Residents should respect these important restrictions and keep children away from any playgrounds for their safety.
- This directive is in line with actions taken by other government departments and agencies including Early Education and Childhood Development (EECD) and Social Development (SD).
- Closures are marked with signage and also cordoned off with yellow tape, where possible, in order to put extra measures in place to protect the health and safety of our residents.

(EMO) Canadian Red Cross Office Closures

- As part of efforts to encourage social distancing and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Canadian Red Cross made the decision to close its offices and branches to the public, starting March 18, 2020.
- For Health Equipment Loan Program, they are delivering services by appointment only between 9am- 12pm if services are absolutely needed to be provided from an office.

(EMO/Public Safety) Compliance / Covid-19 Info Line

- We thank those complying and making the wellness of all New Brunswickers a priority.
- Enforcement is being carried out across the province and is being stepped up with the goal of realizing full compliance.
- Anyone with questions or comments regarding compliance with the state of emergency declaration can call [1-844-462-8387](tel:1-844-462-8387) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or email helpaide@gnb.ca.
- **Peace Officers** with the **Department of Public Safety** are currently conducting compliance checks of businesses. The majority of the businesses checked have been in compliance.
- Anyone who violates, fails to comply with or obstructs any direction, or requirement made pursuant to the Emergency Measures Act commits an offence that carries a fine to a maximum of \$10,200.

(EECD) School Closures

KEY MESSAGES

Monday April 6, 2020

- New Brunswick schools will not be reopened to students and the school calendar will not be extended.
- The government is committed to helping students continue their education.
- All students who were positioned to continue to the next grade level for the 2020-21 school year in January 2020 will do so.
- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development released today home learning plans and resources for families to support the continuity of learning. Schools in both sectors will be in contact with families to share home learning options.
- Students between kindergarten and Grade 12 will be asked to dedicate between an hour to two and a half hours a day to completing home learning options, depending upon their grade level.
- Students of all ages are encouraged to read for a minimum of 30 minutes daily and engage in 30 minutes of physical activity daily.
- Parents are not asked to recreate a classroom in their home or take on the full role of a teacher. Their key responsibility is to encourage students to complete the provided material and continue learning.
- More information on assessments, report cards and delivery plan outlines are available in the continuity of learning plans for the anglophone and francophone sectors.
- All Grade 12 students who, as of January 2020, were on track to graduate in June 2020 will graduate on time and receive a New Brunswick high school diploma.
- Decisions on graduation ceremonies and other graduation events will be made in the coming weeks, based on direction from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- The government will work with post-secondary institutions to ensure this crisis does not prevent students from being eligible for admission to post-secondary studies in the upcoming school year.

(EECD) Daycare closures

- In response to the decision to close daycares, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education has developed a response plan to support essential workers across the province and ensure childcare.
- Information for essential service workers will be available through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Parent Portal or by calling 1-833-221-9339.
- Facilities operating to support essential service works will **follow the advice set out by the Chief Medical Officer**, including reduced group sizes, and social distancing. In addition, they will continue to follow strict health and safety directives.
- We continue to ask New Brunswickers to come together and support one another. Families, neighbours, and friends who are not in high risk categories are encouraged to work together to ensure childcare options are available for our essential services workers.

(ECO/PH) Funeral homes gatherings

- As per the Government of New Brunswick news release on Thursday March 19, 2020 owners and operators of all other premises at which people may gather in large numbers will take all reasonable steps to **prevent gatherings of more than 10 people** and social distancing should be observed. This would include funeral home gatherings as well.

(ECO) Excessive purchasing

KEY MESSAGES

Monday April 6, 2020

- We have seen signs of “panic-buying” – people purchasing excessive quantities of certain household goods - including food, cleaning materials and over-the-counter medications.
- Producers, wholesalers, transportation networks and retailers all have **plans to meet normal societal needs. Excessive purchasing is counterproductive** to that. It also creates problems for your neighbours by creating temporary shortages.
- By being mindful of each other, we will all manage this period with a sense of community and dignity.

(FTB/ONB) COVID-19 Economic Impacts

- Our top priority is the health and safety of New Brunswickers. Acting now to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) will safeguard our economy and ensure critical service delivery is maintained.
- The business community has an important role to play in supporting these efforts to prevent the spread of the virus by making choices to ensure their employees and their clients stay safe.
- Business owners should stay informed about the latest developments and follow the advice of New Brunswick’s Chief Medical Officer of Health. A website with the latest guidance is online at: www.gnb.ca/coronavirus
- In New Brunswick, an all-party cabinet committee has been formed to ensure ongoing leadership, co-ordination and preparedness in responding to the health and economic impact of the virus.
- If you have any further business questions, please contact : nav@navnb.ca, call the Business Navigator line at 1-833-799-7966, or consult the [COVID-19 page specifically for businesses](#).

(JAG) Provincial Courts

- The Chief Justice of the Court of Queen’s Bench has decided to adjourn jury trials in the interest of public health. The Government of New Brunswick supports this decision.
- Preventative measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 have been implemented by all levels of the province’s court systems including the Court of Queen’s Bench, the Court of Appeal, and Provincial Courts.
- We continue to work with members of the judiciary and other case parties to adjust to these exceptional circumstances.
- This is a rapidly changing situation and we are continuously monitoring developments and assessing potential impacts on the justice system.
- Any mitigating plans being put into place by the judiciary are in the interest of public health and we support them.
- New Brunswick’s judiciary has taken preventative steps and measures to protect the public and participants in the justice system from the spread of Covid-19 all the while adhering to the principles of timely access to justice and open courts. For more information please visit the Government of New Brunswick’s justice website at www.gnb.ca/justice

(JAG) Correctional Institutions

- In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our correctional institutions, the province has closed all public access to these facilities, effective immediately.
- The restriction includes all members of the public, including inmate family members, volunteers and legal representatives.

KEY MESSAGES

Monday April 6, 2020

- These measures include all facilities in the province; South-East Regional Correctional Centre, Saint John Correctional Centre, Madawaska Correctional Centre, Dalhousie Regional Correctional Centre, New Brunswick Youth Centre and New Brunswick Woman's Correctional Centre.
- Inmates will be offered extra phone calls during this time. Correctional Services will be monitoring the need to continue with this restriction and will be taking advice from officials with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

(ONB/PETL) Business Continuity Compliance

- Every business has to do their best to adapt to the new conditions.
- Government doesn't want to stop all economic activity, but it does want very much to slow transmission of COVID-19.
- Every business is being asked to make a real effort to find a balance – it can't be business as usual, especially where that means human interaction within 2 meters, so many will have to adapt.
- The orders require very few businesses to cease operations, but challenge all to adapt to reduce risk.

(PETL) Assistance for post-secondary students

- The Emergency Bridging Fund for Vulnerable Post-Secondary Students will support students who are directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will be distributed by post-secondary institutions based upon eligibility criteria and will provide a one-time amount of up to \$750 per student.
- The fund will support post-secondary students, including international students, who demonstrate a financial gap in meeting their basic needs between now and the end of the term.
- Students must contact their institution directly to be considered and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Funding support will be based upon the need for food, shelter, unanticipated medical costs not covered through health plans, and unforeseen additional academic costs.
- To qualify, vulnerable students must not qualify for the one-time \$900 provincial emergency fund as of March 30. They must be in a position in which they cannot access money through student loans, Employment Insurance, personal savings, or other COVID-19 related financial assistance programs.

(PETL) New Brunswick Workers Emergency Income Benefit

- Workers or self-employed people in New Brunswick who have lost their job due to the COVID-19 situation are eligible to receive a one-time income benefit of \$900.
- The Red Cross is administering the provincial government's one-time \$900 income benefit for workers or self-employed people in New Brunswick who have lost their jobs due to the state of emergency. So far 50,700 individuals have registered for the program.
- Applications may be [completed online](#) or by calling the Red Cross at 1-800-863-6582 (toll free) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.
- The benefit is intended to help to bridge the time between when people lose their employment or close their business to when they receive their federal benefit.
- Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

KEY MESSAGES

Monday April 6, 2020

- I am an **individual** and have lost my job; been laid off on or after March 15th due to the state of emergency in New Brunswick OR I am **self-employed** and have lost all revenues through self-employment on or after March 15th due to the state of emergency in New Brunswick.
- I have earned a minimum of \$5,000 (gross) earnings in the last 12 months or in the last calendar year. *The income of at least \$5,000 may be from any or a combination of the following sources: employment (wages and benefits); self-employment; Employment Insurance including maternity and parental benefits.
- I have applied (or plan to apply) for support through the Federal government (either Employment Insurance or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit).
- I am a resident of New Brunswick.
- I am 18 years of age or older.

(PETL) Student Loan Information

- We realize that this pandemic has caused unexpected hardship for thousands of New Brunswickers, including those who are repaying student loans.
- This week, the federal government announced they are placing a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans for all individuals currently in the process of repaying these loans. This will also be the case for provincial student loans.
- Effective as of March 30, 2020, New Brunswick will automatically suspend interest and payments on New Brunswick student loans for six months. No payment will be required, and interest will not accrue during this time. Students do not need to apply for the repayment pause.

(SD) Social Development

- Effective immediately, Social Development will waive the wait time for all applicants with a **prior income who are applying for social assistance**. Applicants may now apply immediately after their previous source of income has ended. This measure is in effect until further notice. Any further changes will be communicated as required.
- Effective immediately, Social Development will extend all expiring benefits such as: Health Cards, Extended Health Cards, Diabetic Supplies, and Over the Counter medications, etc. to April 30, 2020. This measure is to ensure that clients will not experience a disruption in benefits.

(SD) Seniors

- We will also take every measure possible to protect our seniors. **Effective as of April 02, 2020** nursing homes workers will be screened for symptoms and have their temperature taken. Nursing homes are also now equipped to test any resident that is symptomatic.

(SNB) Service New Brunswick

- Nine Service New Brunswick centres reopened on **April 1, 2020** for essential service by appointment only.
- The centres that opened are:
 - Campbellton
 - Bathurst
 - Miramichi

KEY MESSAGES

Monday April 6, 2020

- Moncton
 - Saint John
 - St. Stephen
 - Woodstock
 - Fredericton
 - Edmundston
-
- Service New Brunswick is taking precautions to ensure the number of customers allowed into the centres at one time is limited and that all customers and employees practise social distancing.
 - Establishing appointments allows Service New Brunswick to pre-screen visitors, ensure customers will be prepared with the necessary documentation, and work with customers to avoid a visit entirely, if possible.
 - People who have not made appointments will not be permitted to enter the centres.
 - To book an appointment for one of the following essential services, call TeleServices at **1-888-762-8600 Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.:**
-
- motor vehicle transfers
 - road test for Class 1, 3 or 4 licences only
 - International Fuel Tax Agreement decal applications
 - Medicare application for registration, replacement cards or renewals
 - family support payments
 - request for divorce certificate
 - fine payments after court date or due date
 - International Registration Plan transactions
 - transit markers
 - restoration of driving privileges application
 - rent payments (only those ordered to be paid at Service New Brunswick by the Residential Tenancies Tribunal)
 - vital statistics: marriage licences (only for marriages scheduled before April 30, 2020)
 - housing loan and rental payments (Social Development)
 - damage deposit payments (Social Development)

Service New Brunswick reminds customers that hundreds of its services are still available online and through TeleServices from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1-888-762-8600.

(THC/ELG) Parks

- People are able and encouraged to step outside for a breath of fresh air – we all need that – without endangering their neighbours.
- The revised order of April 2 states: Owners and occupiers of any premises on which persons may gather in large numbers will take all reasonable steps to prevent social recreational gatherings.
- Municipal parks and trails can remain open, but municipalities must have mechanisms in place to ensure they can enforce limitations on the number of persons that can gather in the premises.
- Appropriate signage must be put up at access points to the premises to identify limitations on gatherings and the requirements for social distancing.
- If a municipality cannot monitor usage of their premises, the premises should be closed.
- All provincial parks are closed until further notice, this includes trails in provincial parks.

(GC) Economic Aid

- The Government of Canada also announced that it will be taking the following measures to support both employers and employees:
- Waiving the one-week waiting period for people who are in quarantine or have been directed to self-isolate and are claiming Employment Insurance sickness benefits. Information on eligibility criteria and the application process can be found [here](#).
- Enhancements to the Work-Sharing Program to help employers who are experiencing a downturn in business due to COVID-19, and their workers. Information on the Work-Sharing Program can be found [here](#).
- Income support for those who are not eligible for Employment Insurance sickness benefits is also being explored.
- For more information on additional federal government support available to your business and workers, contact Service Canada at 1-800-OCanada (1-800-622-6232).
- Canada's regional development agencies, including the [Atlantic Opportunities Agency](#), has also announced support is available for small or medium-sized businesses impacted by the sudden shifts in the economy, and those who need pressing assistance, including:
 - Access to federal funding to help you stay in business.
 - Advice and pathfinding services to other federal programs and services online.
 - Contact: ACOA – 1-800-561-4030.

(GC) additional measures

- The federal government has announced temporary income support for workers and parents without paid sick leave as well as longer-term income support for workers. Low- and modest-income families which may require additional financial help may apply for a one-time special payment through a GST credit. Families with children will be eligible for increased Canada Child Benefit payment amounts. For more information on these federal measures:
 - Canada Revenue Agency Accounts and Payments (individuals); 1-800-959-8281 (e); 1-800-959-7383 (f).
 - Canada Revenue Agency Accounts and Payments (business); 1-800-959-5525 (e); 1-800-959-7775 (f).
 - Child Benefit and GST credit; 1-800-387-1193 (e); 1-800-387-1194 (f).
 - Employment Insurance: To apply for EI benefits, [visit their website](#). After that, individuals may apply to have the one-week waiting period waived by calling the government's toll-free number at 1-833-381-2725, or teletypewriter at 1-800-529-3742.
 - Emergency Care benefit and Emergency support benefit: Both benefit plans will be open for application in April, through the [Canada Revenue Agency website](#).
 - Business Financing / liquidity: Finance Canada general enquiries 1-613-369-3710; fin.financepublic-financepublique.fin@canada.ca.
 - Export Development Canada general line 1-800-229-0575.
 - Business Development Bank of Canada general line 1-877-232-2269.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

- The state of emergency declaration issued on **March 19 was extended for another 14 days on April 2** with the approval of the all-party cabinet committee on COVID-19 and the cabinet.
- The provincial government revised the mandatory order on April 2 under the *Emergency Measures Act*.
- The provincial government **declared a state of emergency** under section 12 of the *Emergency Measures Act* **on March 19, 2020** to enhance measures to help contain the spread of COVID-19 (the novel coronavirus). The order was most recently revised and renewed on Thursday April 2nd.
- The health and well-being of every New Brunswicker must remain our number one priority.
- This declaration provides us with the tools we need to ensure the safety of New Brunswickers.
- We are taking this extraordinary measure to offer full support and power possible to assist the health-care sector fighting the spread of COVID-19 in the province.
- Following the recommendation of the chief medical officer of health, and with the support of the all-party cabinet committee, we are taking this extraordinary measure to offer full support and power possible to assist the health-care sector fighting the spread of COVID-19 in the province

As a result of this declaration:

- All lounges and special facilities licenced under the *Liquor Control Act* will stop admitting patrons.
- All swimming pools, spas, saunas, waterparks, gymnasiums, yoga studios, dance studios, rinks and arenas, tennis courts, soccer fields, climbing walls, escape rooms, ski hills, golf courses, arcades, amusement centres, pool halls, bowling alleys, casinos, cinemas, libraries, museums, zoos, aquariums, barbers, hair stylists, esthetics service providers, sugar bush operations, and theatres or other live performance venues will stop admitting members and the public.
- Schools, colleges, universities and private schools must be closed to students.
- Institutions which have students in residence are permitted to allow them to remain in residence until they can safely return home.

Other measures under the declaration of state of emergency include:

- All businesses in retail sales will stop admitting patrons, except: grocery stores; pharmacies; repair garages; post offices; financial and lending institutions; retailers of fuel, hardware and automotive parts; convenience stores; animal and fish feed providers; and corporate and agency stores of NB Liquor and Cannabis NB.
- All businesses required to stop admitting patrons are permitted to sell online or over the phone and to arrange delivery or pick-up of purchases.
- Every person directed by a physician to self-isolate will obey.
- Every person who has been outside Canada will self-isolate within their home for 14 days after their return to Canada, and, if they experience symptoms of COVID-19 during that period, will remain self-isolated until they are free of symptoms. This requirement does not apply to people exempted by the chief medical officer of health.
- Owners and operators of all other premises at which people may gather in large numbers will take all reasonable steps to prevent gatherings of more than **10** people and will ensure that those who do gather will be spaced appropriately as per guidelines of the chief medical officer of health.
- All organized public events of more than **10** people are also prohibited.
- This declaration provides us with the tools we need to ensure the safety of New Brunswickers. This is not a decision we took lightly.

KEY MESSAGES

Monday April 6, 2020

- We are confident that these measures will result in New Brunswickers taking the necessary actions.
- We have chosen not to apply penalties to people who do not comply. However, if we have to we are prepared to apply penalties if people do not take these actions now.
- Other information related to the response to the virus includes:

COVID-19 QUICK REFERENCE DATES

February 4	Provincial Emergency Operations enhanced monitoring for COVID-19 activated	
March 9	Riverwatch began for 2020	Release
March 13	Effective March 16 - K-12 closed until further notice	Release
March 17	Non-essential gov services closed until further notice	Release
March 17	House rises until further notice	Release
March 19	State of Emergency declared	Release
March 19	Provincial Parks close	Release
March 25	Provincial Border restrictions imposed	Release
March 31	9 Service New Brunswick Centres Opened by appt only	Release
April 02	Continuity plan for education (schools will not reopen this year)	Release
April 02	Renewed mandatory order	Release