



VILLAGE VOICE

COVID-19 SPECIAL EDITION

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We are updating our Facebook page and website with the latest news throughout the day. Please see the **Village of Queen Charlotte** on Facebook or queencharlotte.ca

Hello Queen Charlotte. It is important that we all stay calm and be kind to one another. Look out for each other as we are experiencing an unprecedented time. Your village council has taken extraordinary measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of our community. After careful discussions held at the Island Protocol Table and at the North Coast Regional District, every community on Haida Gwaii, as well as, Prince Rupert has decided to declare a State of Local Emergency to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our region. Each community has opened Emergency Operation Centres with the CHN operating the Unified Central Command for Haida Gwaii. We are working together and we will get through this.



Stay home, stay safe and limit your contact with others. Wash your hands and take all necessary precautions to protect yourself and your community. **I have been asked to inform the community not to hoard goods as our supply chains are open and goods will still be coming to Haida Gwaii.** everyone needs access to supplies. All of us must think of our community and not the individual during this state of emergency.

Take time to phone friends and family. Let them know that we will get through this together. Find special ways to enjoy this time with your loved ones. Do special things for each other to help everyone stay strong.

We also need to thank our first responders, medical staff and essential service providers who are on the front line. The Village of Queen Charlotte council and staff are here with you and for you.

Haawa, Thank You and Merci.

HEARTS IN THE WINDOW: Show your love for Haida Gwaii medical staff and other essential services by putting a heart in your window or door if you are voluntarily self-isolating to protect your fellow islanders. You can go outside and take pictures with your Window of Love and post them on Facebook, or send them to us by email/Facebook to show your support.

We have included a heart for you in this newsletter: colour it, decorate it, doodle, write a message, etc. and share to give people a chance to see your love for Haida Gwaii.

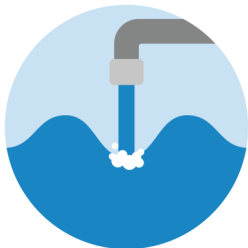
VILLAGE OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE SERVICE IMPACTS

The Village of Queen Charlotte services have been reduced to essential service levels to reduce overall exposure opportunities for staff and the public. Crews are working to continue service provision in rotating shifts, and all necessary precautions are being taken to limit social contact in our workplaces and with the public. **Listed below are current impacts to services**



Closure of all Public Facilities & Event Cancellations

- o The administration office, youth centre, and public parks including Haydn Turner Campground are closed until further notice. The Boat Launch will remain open but the docks will not be installed.
- o Please call 250-637-1782 to arrange an appointment with Village staff, if required. Note that availability for in-person meetings will be limited.
- o Board meeting access will follow the directive of the Province, with remote teleconference options available.



Reduction to VQC Essential Services

Until further notice, the VQC's operations have moved to essential service provision. The following services will continue:

- o Emergency services – including fire and policing;
- o Water and sanitary sewer services;
- o Cemetery services;
- o Municipal computer services;
- o Community park garbage pick-up; and
- o Emergency water repairs.

Non-essential operations WILL NOT be available until further notice.



Enhanced Measures within VQC Essential Services

The following precautions are being taken by staff who continue to be able to fulfill their duties, where possible:

- o Movement of meetings and work to remote formats and/or rotating staff, using call-in/video conferencing formats where possible.
- o Enhanced disinfecting measures within VQC facilities.
- o Direction to staff to observe good hygiene practices as recommended by health authorities, inclusive of regular handwashing, avoiding touching ones' face, physical distancing and staying home if they have flu/cold like symptoms.
- o Mandatory self-isolation of any staff returning from travel outside of Canada and cancellation of any non-essential travel plans.

Emergency measure recommendations of the Haida Nation, and under the Indian Act and the British Columbia Health Act are now in place throughout Haida Gwaii

All residents who are not working in essential services should stay home and shelter in place. Those who must travel to and from work for **essential services** are asked to do so quickly and efficiently, respecting social distancing of 2 meters/6 feet.

Residents may only have physical contact with individuals within the same household, except in workplaces that continue to operate for essential service provision. Individuals who continue to attend physical workspaces out of necessity must practice social distancing of 2 meters/6 feet and follow recommended practices with respect to hygiene and disinfection of shared spaces. Health recommendations for businesses are available via the BC Centre for Disease Control, here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/employers-businesses>

Except for those **essential services** in outdoor environments, residents may only go outside with members of your household and must keep your distance from anyone outside of your household, respecting social distancing.

Areas that typically attract larger groups of people where a separation of 2 meters/6 feet is difficult to maintain are now closed to the public. This includes recreation centres and facilities, libraries and playgrounds. Any outdoor sporting activity that cannot keep a 2 meter/6 feet separation is not permitted.

Children under 12 must be supervised or within communication distance of an adult when outside.

All residents who are returning from travel to a community within Haida Gwaii from any mode of transportation from any location either internationally or domestically are strongly recommended to self-isolate for 14 days upon returning. Those who are coming to Haida Gwaii communities for the purpose of conducting **essential service** work (and do not show symptoms) are exempt (*please follow all Provincial social distancing guidelines of 2 meters/6 feet*)

Residents are strongly discouraged from leaving their community during this time. For those who **MUST** travel for **essential services** are to adhere to Provincial and local health regulations.

If necessary, further local measures may be established to protect public health under the guidance of emergency personnel and health care professionals. These emergency measures are issued on a temporary basis. Each Council/Board will follow their legislative process to extend or terminate this state of local emergency as required.

What are essential services?

1. Essential Health Care Operations, Including:

research and laboratory services
hospitals
walk-in-care health facilities
emergency veterinary and livestock services
elder care
medical wholesale and distribution
home health care workers or aides for the elderly
doctor and emergency dental
nursing homes, or residential health care facilities or
congregate care facilities
medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and
providers
ambulance service

2. Essential Infrastructure, Including:

utilities including power generation, fuel supply and
transmission
public water and wastewater
telecommunications and data centers
airports/airlines
transportation infrastructure such as or for-hire
vehicles, garages, BC Ferries
hotels, and places of accommodation

3. Essential Manufacturing, Including:

food processing, manufacturing agents, including all
foods and beverages
agriculture/farms

4. Essential Retail, Including:

grocery stores including all food and beverage stores
pharmacies
convenience stores
farmer's markets
gas stations
restaurants/bars (but only for take-out/delivery)
hardware and building material stores

5. Essential Services, Including:

trash collection, processing and disposal
mail and shipping services
laundromats
building cleaning and maintenance
child care services for essential service providers
auto repair
warehouse/distribution and fulfillment
funeral homes and cemeteries
storage for essential businesses
animal shelters

6. Financial Institutions, Including:

banks
insurance
payroll
accounting

7. Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations, Including:

homeless shelters and congregate care facilities
food banks
human services providers whose function includes
the direct care of patients in licensed or funded
voluntary programs; the care, protection,
custody and oversight of individuals both in the
community and in licensed residential facilities;
those operating community shelters and other
critical human services agencies providing
direct care or support

8. Construction, Including:

skilled trades such as electricians, plumbers
other related construction firms and professionals
for essential infrastructure or for emergency
repair and safety purposes

9. Essential Services Necessary to Maintain the Safety, Sanitation and Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses, Including:

law enforcement
fire prevention and response
security
emergency management and response
building cleaners or janitors
general maintenance whether employed by the
entity directly or a vendor
automotive repair
disinfection
municipal governance

10. Vendors that Provide Essential Services or Products, Including Technology Support, Child Care and Services:

technology support for online services
child care programs and services
government owned or leased buildings
essential government services

As of March 24, **Forbes Pharmacy** will not be accessible to the public. Staff will still be in the pharmacy AND can be reached by phone on 250-559-4910. Delivery options will be available or someone can meet you in the parking lot.

Dear Valued Customers, City Center Stores would like to reassure our customers that we will be continuing to get a grocery trailer every week. During this time, we ask that customers maintain their *normal shopping habits* and only buy what they need, please refrain from panic buying. We are working closely with our distributors and although there may be a slight interruption in produce availability in the short term, we can assure you that as long as everyone only buys what they need for the week, and not over-buy, the community **will** have food.

- **Please remember to social distance yourself from others by 2 meters while shopping.**
- **Our team members are washing their hands regularly and frequently disinfecting high-touch surfaces.**
- **We've temporarily suspended bottle returns and ask that people not use reusable shopping bags during this time.**
- **We might have limits on high-demand items.**

Thank you.

City Center Stores Management and Staff.