



News Release

March 20, 2020

Clearwater County activates ECC in response to COVID-19

(Rocky Mountain House, AB) – On March 17, Clearwater County activated its Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) to centralize resource tracking and business continuity planning in response to COVID-19.

“The County activated the ECC early to get ahead of the expected impacts of COVID-19 and in another proactive measure cancelled all non-essential public and staff events until at least April 1st, to assist in managing risks of COVID-19,” said Clearwater County’s Director of Emergency Management Christine Heggart. “Clearwater County closed its doors to public access on March 18, but we want to reassure the public that all County services continue at this point in time and staff are available by appointment only.”

“The Emergency Coordination Centre team is also tasked with reviewing daily the County’s staff resources and adjusting to meet County service needs,” Heggart continued. “As of this week, our workforce absenteeism remains modest, with 4-5% unavailable due to isolation for travel, illness or household illness. Again, as we expect that number to increase in the coming weeks, we have developed contingency plans to address expected staff shortages.”

“Council and Administration understand the significance of COVID-19 and its social and economic impacts along with the critical importance of continued core municipal service provision,” said Clearwater County Reeve Timothy Hoven. “Council decided at their special meeting yesterday to continue with their regular meetings to ensure key business can proceed in a timely manner, but municipal staff and the public are encouraged to watch meetings via live stream. Use of technology and electronic communication tools should become the new normal.”

Heggart closed by saying “that at this time Clearwater County does not anticipate any disruption of essential municipal services such as emergency response, fire rescues services, water, wastewater, road maintenance or snow removal, as examples.”

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Additional Resources: During a crisis, misinformation does circulate. The most current and accurate information about COVID-19 can be found at www.alberta.ca/covid19.

Please visit our website for more information at www.clearwatercounty.ca.

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