

Check out what's happening in Saskatoon Willowgrove and throughout the Province!



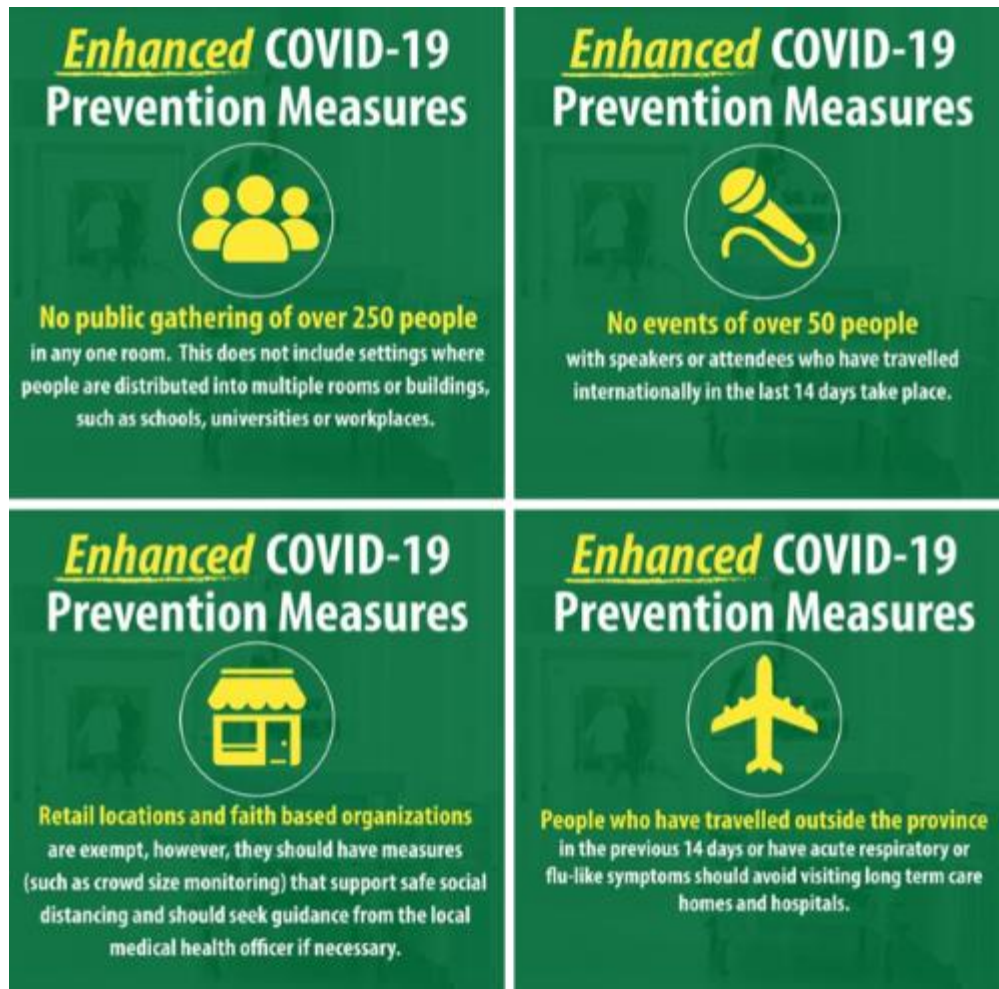
*FROM A PROVINCIAL  
POINT OF VIEW.*

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**SASKATOON  
WILLOWGROVE**

**UPDATES ON COVID-19**



The main focus of this week's newsletter is COVID-19. The challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are top of mind as the number of cases increases around the world.

The folks at [Saskatchewan Health Authority](#) are doing a great job of keeping up with regular updates & answers to the most common questions on [#COVID-19](#). I am carefully sharing verified information in this newsletter so you can be informed.

A huge shout out to all health care workers, scientists, emergency responders, as well as many others working day and night to help fight the Coronavirus. Special thanks to everyone on the front lines, all those contributing to keeping grocery

store shelves stocked and people in our community watching out for one another. Thank you to everyone involved in ensuring the safety of our well being.

Please **ONLY** call HealthLine 811 if you have symptoms and need to be assessed. Do not call just to see how busy the line is - this impacts others trying to call who require help.

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus>



It is important the information you're reading is from a reliable source.

*Premier Scott Moe, "Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Officer is doing a great job keeping us all well informed on what we need to know about coronavirus in our province."*

*We can all do our part to reduce the risk to ourselves and others by washing often, practicing social distancing, staying home if we are not feeling well and seeking medical advice to determine if we need to be tested."*

**PROVINCE ENHANCES COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES**



Friday, March 13th, Premier Scott Moe, Health Minister Jim Reiter and Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab announced new measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan.

The Chief Medical Health Officer of Saskatchewan has made the following order pursuant to Section 45 of The Public Health Act effective Monday, March 16:

- The Chief Medical Health Officer orders that no public gathering of over 250 people in any one room take place. This does not include settings where people are distributed into multiple rooms or buildings, such as schools, universities or workplaces.
- The Chief Medical Health Officer orders that no events of over 50 people with speakers or attendees who have travelled internationally in the last 14 days take place.
- Retail locations and Faith based organizations are exempt, however, they should have measures (such as crowd size monitoring) that support safe social distancing and should seek guidance from the local medical health officer if necessary.
- Effective immediately, people who have travelled outside the province in the previous 14 days or have acute respiratory or flu-like symptoms should avoid visiting long term care homes and hospitals.

Additionally, the Government of Saskatchewan as an employer is imposing a number of policies regarding

government employee travel, as well as self-monitoring and self-isolation procedures:

- Effective immediately, international travel (including the U.S.) for government employees on government business has been prohibited.
- Any out-of-province travel for government employees on government business within Canada will be restricted and is subject to approval by the Deputy Minister to the Premier.
- Any government employees who are currently travelling internationally (including to the U.S.), or

plan to travel internationally for personal reasons will be required to self-isolate for 14 days after returning to Canada as a precaution. If they have or develop acute respiratory or flu-like symptoms, they should contact Healthline 811.

- All government employees who are experiencing symptoms of an acute respiratory or flu-like illness will be required to stay at home.

While these measures are being implemented as a policy for Government of Saskatchewan ministries, crowns, and agencies, the Chief Medical Health Officer strongly recommends that all employers and individuals across the province adopt these measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan, protect residents from exposure to the virus and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the health system.

In keeping with these new policies, budget day events on Wednesday, March 18, will proceed without the participation of invited guests. Members of the Legislative Assembly, media, and a limited number of staff will gather for these events while practicing social distancing. Further, all tours and public events at the Legislative Building are suspended and general public access to the Legislative Building will also be suspended.

Concerns regarding Healthline 811 have been heard, and following an action plan ordered by the Minister of Health, the capacity of Healthline 811 has been more than doubled effective 9 a.m. this morning, with additional capacity being added going forward.

The Ministry of Health and the Saskatchewan Health Authority continue to work together to expand testing capacity for COVID-19, including the introduction of COVID-19 assessment sites over the coming days.

“While these are significant steps that will help limit transmission of COVID-19, most important is the responsibility we all have to ensure we reduce the risk to ourselves, our families and our communities,” Moe said. “The best way we can do this is by practicing social distancing, washing our hands often, avoiding close personal contact like handshakes or hugs, and self isolating if we feel any symptoms of illness.”

## **BUDGET 2020 - HEALTH CARE IMPACT ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS**



**Due to public health concerns with COVID-19, the decision has been made that we will forgo public invitations for the upcoming budget speech on March 18th.**

**Thank you to all that responded to our invitation in last week's newsletter. I look forward to hosting you at the legislature in the future.**

**The Legislative Assembly will work to ensure a wide distribution of the speech is delivered to you utilizing TV and online resources. Watch for our newsletter following the budget speech. We will provide updates.**

## **SASKATCHEWAN FUNDS CORONAVIRUS VACCINE RESEARCH**



Innovation Saskatchewan is providing researchers at the University of Saskatchewan with \$200,000 to help find a vaccine for COVID-19.

The university's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre is at the forefront of a global search, having previously worked on vaccines for SARS and the Zika virus. The Saskatoon lab is one of the few research facilities with regulatory approval to work on the new virus.

"Saskatchewan's infectious disease researchers are among the best in the world and our government is proud to support their efforts in the development of a vaccine to protect against COVID-19," Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan Tina Beaudry-Mellor says.

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/11/covid19-vaccine-research>

## **SASKATCHEWAN KEEPING SCHOOLS OPEN FOR NOW**

While concern over spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 continues to rise, the risk in Saskatchewan still remains low but is increasing. The decision to close schools is made upon the advice of the provincial Chief Medical Health Officer. We all need to ensure we are taking measures as individuals to maintain social distancing including staying home if sick and keeping children out of school if sick.

"Any recommendation to close schools is based on risk assessment and made on a case-by-case basis," Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab said. "The decision to close schools should not be made in the absence of valid public health reasons and the benefits and risks need to be considered carefully."

The positive cases in Saskatchewan are still primarily travel-related and there is no sustained community transmission at this time. As we learn more or if the situation changes there could be school closures locally on the direction of the local Medical Health Officer or more broadly on the direction of the Chief Medical Health Officer.

The criteria for school closures is based on a number of factors including:

- Evidence of sustained transmission within the community
- Rapid increase of local cases
- Transmission without a known link to travel or confirmed cases.

**New Travel Guidance for Residents Travelling Internationally and Returning to Saskatchewan:**  
The Federal Government and Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer recommend returning to Canada and avoiding non-essential international travel until further notice.

All travellers returning from international destinations - including the United States – need to self-isolate and monitor their health for 14 days upon return. Travellers returning from within Canada are advised to self-monitor for 14 days upon return. Members of the public who have travelled outside the province in the previous 14 days should not visit hospitals or long-term care facilities.

#### **COVID-19 INFORMATION**

We understand that residents have questions about COVID-19 in Saskatchewan.

If you have recently travelled internationally and are experiencing respiratory or flu-like symptoms, please call HealthLine 811.

For the latest advice to the public and information on prevention measures being taken, visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus).

Public inquiries may be directed to [COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca](mailto:COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca).

**HELP PREVENT MISINFORMATION ABOUT CORONAVIRUS**





# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

For more information:  
Canada.ca/coronavirus  
or phone 1-833-784-4397

CANADA.CA/CORONAVIRUS

Canada

There is a lot of [#misinformation](#) about [#COVID19](#) and the novel [#coronavirus](#) circulating on social media. To help you stay informed, we'll be providing answers to some of the common questions we're seeing on social media.

Today's [#COVID19Question](#): Can the [#COVID19](#) coronavirus be transmitted when a person is not showing symptoms?

Experts believe that the novel coronavirus can be spread by a person who is not showing any symptoms, but such transmission is considered rare. However, we know that the novel coronavirus is most often spread through close contact with a person who is showing symptoms.

That means that the primary focus for containing the COVID-19 outbreak is to prevent exposure through direct and close contact.

You can prevent the spread of [#COVID19](#) infections by washing your hands frequently, covering your coughs and sneezes, and staying home if you're sick.

Help prevent [#misinformation](#) about [#COVID19](#) and [#coronavirus](#) by referencing trustworthy sources.

## KNOW THE FACTS

Premier Scott Moe, Do you have questions about testing for COVID-19, and whether you or a loved one should be tested? Use this self-assessment tool to determine whether you should receive a test for COVID-19.

If you have no symptoms or exposure concerns but have questions about COVID-19, you can:

- Access the most up-to-date news and information on [www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus)
- Email [COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca](mailto:COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca)

### Symptoms of Coronavirus

Common signs include respiratory symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Older people or those with chronic illnesses may be at higher risk for a more severe form of the disease.

### Treatment of Coronavirus

Like most respiratory illnesses, most people with common coronavirus illness will recover on their own. There is no specific treatment for disease caused by a novel coronavirus. However, many of the symptoms can and should be treated. If symptoms feel worse than a standard cold, see a health care provider or call HealthLine at 811. If HealthLine 811 recommends you seek acute care, they will provide instruction to call ahead.

### How to Protect Yourself Against Coronavirus

Currently, there is no approved vaccine that protects against coronaviruses in humans.

As a respiratory illness, the best method to protect yourself against coronavirus is to practice everyday preventive actions, including:

- Practice proper cough and sneezing etiquette (into the bend of your elbow);
- Wash your hands often with soap and water; if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Maintain safe food practices; and
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

There is no evidence that surgical masks protect persons who are not sick. The World Health Organization does not recommend the use of any masks if you do not have a travel history and respiratory symptoms. If you have respiratory symptoms such as cough or difficulty breathing and a relevant travel history you should wear a surgical/procedure mask when seeking medical care at a health facility. If you are going to a health care facility for treatment of your respiratory illness and do not have a mask, ask for one at the admission desk and one will be provided to you.

Looking for information on COVID-19 or have questions...visit [saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](https://saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus). Lots of information and advice.

Once again, if you have COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) and recently traveled outside Canada or were exposed to someone who has COVID-19, stay home and call HealthLine 811 or your healthcare provider for instructions. Do NOT go to an emergency department or clinic. However, if your symptoms worsen or you need immediate medical attention, call 911.

## **SASKATCHEWAN ENHANCES PATIENT ACCESS, PROVIDES NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR PHYSICIAN SAFETY**

With the growing concern around COVID-19, Saskatchewan is taking steps to enhance access to health care by providing support for physicians to offer virtual appointments to patients.

The new virtual services, which will be supported through a new payment code for physicians, will enable patients to connect with physicians by telephone effective immediately. The Ministry of Health is also working to provide patients with the ability to connect with doctors by secure video, which may be available as early as next week with physician offices that offer that option.

“Keeping Saskatchewan residents healthy and containing community transmission of this coronavirus is a priority for our government,” Health Minister Jim Reiter said. “Provision of virtual care by telephone or video is just one strategy we are using to ensure residents have options for accessing health care.”

“The SMA is pleased with this development because it provides patients with remote access to physicians,” SMA President Dr. Allan Woo said. “This kind of access also provides a safer work environment for doctors and their staff during this pandemic. We need a healthy physician workforce to tackle the challenges presented by the outbreak of COVID-19.”

The risk to Saskatchewan residents still remains low, but all residents can help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands frequently;
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or your sleeve;
- Practice social distancing; and
- Stay home if you are sick.

The government is reminding patients that if they suspect they are ill as a result of a COVID-19 infection, they should first call HealthLine 811.

Saskatchewan residents can visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus) for risk and prevention information and for the latest travel guidance.

## TRAVEL ADVICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



**OFFICIAL GLOBAL TRAVEL ADVISORY: Avoid non-essential travel to all destinations outside Canada until further notice due to measures put in place to control the spread of #COVID19.**

<http://ow.ly/duoi50yLpNU>



**Canadians abroad** should register  
with the Government of Canada:

[Travel.gc.ca/register](https://travel.gc.ca/register)

**Canadians residing outside Canada: If you have no immediate plans to return to Canada, ensure you have sufficient finances and necessities, including medication. Register with us to stay in touch: <http://ow.ly/YCTu50yMebq>**

**CITY OF SASKATOON COVID-19 UPDATE**



**City of Saskatoon COVID-19 Update: March 14, 2020 AM**

To help share reliable and accurate information for our community, the City has created a webpage dedicated to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) information: [saskatoon.ca/covid-19](https://saskatoon.ca/covid-19).

View this morning's news release: [saskatoon.ca/news-releases/city-saskatoon-covid-19-update-march-14-2020-am](https://saskatoon.ca/news-releases/city-saskatoon-covid-19-update-march-14-2020-am)

**SASKATCHEWAN CONFIRMS NEW PRESUMPTIVE CASES OF COVID-19**

Four new presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Saskatchewan, bringing the total number of cases in the province to six.

One resident, a health care worker in their 30s, has a recent history of travel to Nigeria and Germany, as well as Alberta. The individual is recovering in northern Saskatchewan.

Two presumptive cases are in their 40s and live in the same household in Regina. One recently travelled to Vancouver for a dental conference at which an attendee was later confirmed to have COVID-19. The two Saskatchewan residents were tested March 13 and are self-isolating while they recover.

The fourth new case is an individual in their 20s with a history of travel to Tennessee, U.S., who was tested in Regina and is now self-isolating and recovering in their home community.

Public Health officials are following up with individuals who had close contact with all of these cases and who may be at risk of developing COVID-19. You will be notified if you are a close contact and need to take further measures.

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The Federal Government and Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer recommend returning to Canada and avoiding non-essential international travel until further notice.

All travellers returning from international destinations - including the United States – need to self-isolate and monitor their health for 14 days upon return. Travellers returning from within Canada are advised to self-monitor for 14 days upon return. Members of the public who have travelled outside the province in the previous 14 days should not visit hospitals or long-term care facilities.

**COVID-19 INFORMATION:**

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Public inquiries may be directed to [COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca](mailto:COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca).

## **ENHANCED TRAVEL & MONITORING PROCEDURES**

## **Enhanced** Government Employee Travel & Monitoring Procedures



All international travel (including the US) for government employees on government business is **prohibited**. Out-of-Province travel will be **restricted**



Any employee who is currently travelling internationally will be required to **self-isolate for 14 days** after returning to Canada



All government employees who are experiencing symptoms of acute respiratory or flu-like symptoms will be **required to stay at home**

The Government of Saskatchewan as an employer is imposing a number of policies regarding government employee travel, as well as self-monitoring and self-isolation procedures.

While these measures are being implemented as a policy for Government of Saskatchewan ministries, crowns, and agencies, the Chief Medical Health Officer strongly recommends that all employers and individuals across the province adopt these measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan, protect residents from exposure to the virus and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the health system.

### **SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY, VISITOR RESTRICTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH FACILITIES**

In an effort to minimize and contain the spread of COVID-19, the Saskatchewan Health Authority is implementing visitor restrictions effective immediately for SHA-operated hospitals, clinics, community and continuing care facilities.

- For patients who are in critical care or high acuity units in SHA hospitals, visitors will be restricted to one at a time, unless extenuating circumstances exist.
- All community, foundation and other public and spiritual gatherings within any SHA-operated facility are on hold effective immediately until further notice.



- We are suspending the services provided by community volunteers who are 65 years of age or older, in non-essential service areas. We appreciate their service and dedication and thank them for their support. However, we need to ensure proper measures are taken to limit non-essential community interaction in our facilities. Non-essential volunteer service areas are determined by each individual facility.

[Visitor Restrictions Implemented in Saskatchewan Health Facilities](#)

Additional information is available on the [Saskatchewan Health Authority Site:](#)

[Saskatchewan Health Authority COVID-19 Expanding Testing Locations](#)

## JUST THE LINKS



[ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES](#)

[GOVERNMENT OFFERS ADDED SALARY INCREASE TO SASKATCHEWAN](#)

[TEACHERS AND FUND FOR CLASS SIZE AND COMPOSITION](#)

[AGRICULTURAL SAFETY WEEK PROCLAIMED IN SASKATCHEWAN](#)

[MARCH C16-22 PROCLAIMED SOCIAL WORK WEEK IN SASKATCHEWAN](#)

[NOMINATIONS FOR SASKATCHEWAN'S 2020 COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION OF](#)

[LITERACY AWARD ARE NOW OPEN](#)

[A TINY BIRD SKULL IN AMBER EXPANDS RESEARCH ON SMALLEST DINOSAURS](#)

[SASKATCHEWAN CONFIRMS SECOND PRESUMPTIVE CASE OF COVID-19](#)

[PROVINCIAL CAPITAL COMMISSION CELEBRATES HOW THE COMMONWEALTH  
CONNECTS US ALL](#)

[PROVINCE FUNDS THREE SASKATCHEWAN ENERGY INNOVATORS](#)

[SASKATCHEWAN JOB SEEKERS TO BENEFIT FROM CAREER TRAINING  
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[OIL AND GAS SECTOR INCREASES RESPONSIBLE WELL ABANDONMENT](#)



**Thank you for your interest in Provincial Point of View. I appreciate your feedback.**

***THOUGHT OF THE DAY***



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