

Haida Gwaii COVID-19 RESPONSE

State of Emergency Declared

The Village of Queen Charlotte, in coordination with its municipal, Council of the Haida Nation, Skidegate Band Council, and Old Massett Village Council partners, is acting to reduce the potential impact of COVID-19 in our communities, which is why on Monday, March 23rd, the Mayor and Council declared a State of Emergency. Under B.C.'s Emergency Program Act, when a State of Emergency is declared, it fully activates the Village of Queen Charlotte's Emergency Operations Centre and gives these key personnel greater flexibility to access resources and respond efficiently to emergent circumstances.

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

- 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.
- Please call 250-637-1782 to arrange an appointment with Village staff, if required. Note that availability for in-person meetings will be limited.
- 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:
 - Emergency services – including fire and policing;
 - Water and sanitary sewer services;
 - Cemetery services;
 - Municipal computer services;
 - Community park garbage pick-up; and
 - 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:

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