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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 30, 2020

### **RE: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **How many cases of COVID-19 are in Vermilion? And if I or a member of my family get sick, will our hospital be able to handle it?**

Alberta Health Services will continue to be the only agency that disseminates health information. Any inquiries to the Town such as the number of COVID-19 cases locally, will be directed to Alberta Health Services. The public is encouraged to follow the briefings by the Chief Officer of Medical Health and use the link <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx#p22780s6> or call 811. Even if we are told there are no known cases in our community, we should all continue to be cautious, practice social distancing, and practice good hand hygiene as the trajectory continues to trend upwards.

2. **Is our Town prepared? What are local officials doing? Other communities have declared a State of Local Emergency.**

The town will continue to monitor the situation, and would only elevate our state of readiness (such as initializing the EOC) if the situation escalates drastically. Some communities declared “States of Local Emergency” (S.O.L.E) early in the process, mainly to gain compliance for much of what has now been made mandatory by the provincial declaration of a Public Health Emergency. At this time, Town Council and administration is confident that there is no need for the Town of Vermilion to declare a S.O.L.E. due to widespread public compliance with the requirements of the Public Health Act.

3. **We have been told that “Social Distancing” is the law, and only businesses that provide Essential Services are allowed to remain open. Who will be enforcing these provisions? Who can we call?**

The Solicitor General of Alberta has designated that this order



can be enforced by all Peace officers in the province, which includes RCMP, Sheriffs, and Community Peace officers. You can contact our local RCMP, or the Town of Vermilion Peace Officer through our main switchboard at 780-853-5358 or e-mail [cpo@vermilion.ca](mailto:cpo@vermilion.ca)

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