



Town of Coaldale COVID-19 Update: Wednesday, March 18, 2020

The Town of Coaldale, in consultation with local emergency management officials, activated its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on March 16, 2020 at 1720 hrs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The EOC is closely monitoring the situation and is liaising with internal and external stakeholders, Alberta Health Services and the Alberta Emergency Management Agency. The objective of our local response is to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Town of Coaldale, its residents, staff, and to maintain the operation of critical Municipal services.

People may be wondering why the Town of Coaldale has not declared a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) while many other municipalities and first nations in the Province have. On March 17, 2020 – Alberta Premier Jason Kenney, along with Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta’s Chief Medical Officer, announced a State of Public Health Emergency under the Public Health Act. Because this pandemic is a Public Health Emergency, Alberta Health is the agency having jurisdiction. The Town of Coaldale is following all recommendations from Alberta Health, AHS, the AEMA and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Currently, the Town of Coaldale does not see the need to declare a State of Local Emergency. Declaring a SOLE would give the Town of Coaldale additional powers under the Emergency Management Act. At this time, we do not feel these extraordinary powers are required because the Province has already enacted them, such as limiting gatherings, restricting travel, and closing businesses. COVID-19 is not a local emergency; this is a Public Health Emergency that is affecting the entire world. Also, AEMA states that declaring a local state of emergency is not required to be eligible for post-disaster funding should there be any.

Please do not take this as the Town of Coaldale isn’t taking the situation seriously. We are, and we are following the guidance from Local, Provincial, and Federal Health agencies. We will continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation closely and maintain communications with our residents.

Now is the time to support one another and take care of our vulnerable populations.

We are all in this together.

Please visit www.alberta.ca/COVID19 for the latest information on COVID-19 or www.coaldale.ca/covid19 for local information.