



**March 12, 2020**

Yesterday, the World Health Organization announced that the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, has become a global pandemic. This morning, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer has reported 19 cases in Alberta and 103 cases across Canada. The current risk to Albertans remains low, and our public health system is actively responding.

As the number of cases in Alberta increases – an expected trend as the public health authority works aggressively to test and limit the spread – so will the number of people impacted, including those in self-isolation at home. While the situation is concerning, we can all play a role in protecting our communities and looking out for our neighbours.

First and foremost, we all need to wash our hands and avoid touching our faces. This will slow the spread.

We have received calls from community-based organizations expressing worry and concern. Specifically, people have asked us for policies. Because each of your organizations have different programs, services and policies related to human resources, hall rentals and programs, we cannot develop policies that would be universal. We would suggest that your organization needs to consider steps it might take to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

**To that end, we are committed to supporting our members and providing information and resources as we have them.**

Our partner, Toole Peet Insurance, has prepared a [Business Pandemic Influenza Checklist](#) to help your organizations prepare for a pandemic.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has developed [guidance](#) for schools and child care programs. PHAC has also outlined [community-based](#) measures to protect groups, employees and the population. These measures are relevant to all places where people gather, including community centres.

Consider implementing the following measures:

- Increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (e.g., phones, elevator buttons, computers, desks, lunch tables, kitchens, washrooms, cash registers, seating areas, surface counters, customer service counters, etc.)
- Provide access to handwashing facilities and place hand sanitizing dispensers in prominent locations throughout the workplace, if possible.

Community-setting closures may be considered based on local conditions and a risk assessment. As closures may have significant economic consequences, decisions should be made based on a risk-benefit analysis. PHAC has developed a [risk assessment tool](#) to assist with decision making for mass gatherings.





The Calgary Chamber of Commerce, in its role as emergency partner to the Calgary Emergency Management Agency, has also gathered and prepared several resources which you may also find useful. You can access them at anytime by navigating to <https://www.calgarychamber.com/resources/blog/covid-19-guidance-resources/>.

We are committed to supporting our members and providing information and resources as we have them. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us and/or your insurance provider.

