



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF COWLEY

COVID-19 is different than the flu. We currently have no vaccinations or antiviral treatments. That's why our health system is taking steps to slow the novel coronavirus's spread.

This is a time of great stress and anxiety.

The swiftness with which this situation has emerged globally is stunning; in less than two months we have gone from no known cases of infection to a global pandemic that is disrupting the way we live and how our society functions. This sudden change is unsettling for everyone, and our caring and compassion for each other and those we help is critical as we navigate the new challenges that will arise in the coming weeks.

Our response to COVID-19 has evolved quickly, and as it continues to evolve, we are committed to working with our surrounding communities and leadership teams to care for our residents, businesses and employees through this crisis.

No one of us is alone in this effort.

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those heroes who have put their own safety aside to work the front lines ensuring we stay comfortable and safe.

- The first responders, doctors, nurses, healthcare workers who have put in endless hours to keep us healthy. Thank you!
- The truck drivers, the grocery clerks, the delivery services and the store owners who have kept a steady supply of food. Thank you!
- The employees who keep our lights on, houses warm, water running, sewers flushing. Thank you!
- The Mayors and Councils and staff of our surrounding communities for their support. Thank you!
- And here in the Village of Cowley, a special "thank you" to Cindy, Clayton, and Barry and the Council who have kept the Village business as usual.

Emergency declarations have been issued throughout Canada to prevent the spread of the virus to minimize its impact on the community, our health care infrastructure, and our economy. We are adhering to the emergency orders and operational changes to implement and enforce the recommendations by our Government & Public Health officials. Social distancing, suspending or postponing non-essential services or activities, and partially or fully closing facilities (schools, libraries, and community centers) will help to minimize the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

We are all concerned about the impacts to business – particularly small businesses – and the general economy. Many of our small-business owners and their employees have no safety net.

Both Provincial & Federal Governments have established a coordinated approach to provide relief and assistance resources to businesses and individuals that are impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Check to see if you qualify at <https://www.alberta.ca/COVID19> and <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Take care of yourself and your family by staying home. Wash your hands frequently, sneeze into your arm or a tissue, avoid gatherings and keep two meters between you and others.

There are concerns as to how the social isolation will impact our communities, particularly to our senior populations.

Take care of your friends and neighbor in town and the surrounding communities. Check on that isolated elderly neighbor or newly unemployed family. Can you help with a meal or assist in some fashion? Help your community. Please don't hoard food and household supplies. Consider donating your extra items to your local food bank so they can help those less fortunate.

This is a swiftly changing situation and we will all need to be flexible, patient and understanding as we adapt our day to day activities to meet the demands of our changing environment. There are no easy answers. We'll recover and emerge stronger because of the relationships, partnerships, and the kindness we are showing now.

And lastly thank you for your support and cooperation during these uncertain times.

Warren Mickels

Mayor for the Village of Cowley