



CHESTERMERE

ORDER OF THE CITY OF CHESTERMERE

ORDER TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO ADDRESS PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH, AND IMMINENT AND FORSEEABLE DANGERS RELATED TO COVID-19 AND OVERCROWDING AT CITY OF CHESTERMERE'S PUBLIC BEACHES

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE 12:01 A.M. ON JULY 19, 2020

Please read this Order carefully.

Summary:

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. The virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 Disease ("COVID-19") is easily transmitted from person to person contact, and contact with contaminated surfaces. A State of Public Health Emergency was declared by Alberta's Premier on March 19, 2020. Alberta's Emergency Management Agency's Provincial Operations Centre was elevated to the highest level (4) on March 17, 2020 to support the lead of the Alberta Health Services to manage and respond to the COVID-19 health crisis, and currently stands at level (2). The City of Chestermere declared a State of Local Emergency on March 17, 2020 which was renewed on various occasions, to allow for CHEMA to effectively manage the pandemic locally, and to support the efforts of the Province. As of the date of this Order, 110,000 positive cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Canada and 9,219 in Alberta, resulting in 8,848 deaths in Canada of which 167 are in Alberta. Globally, 14.1 million people have contracted the virus resulting in 598,000 deaths. A vaccine has not yet been developed.

With strong testing data showing declining infection rates in the Province of Alberta, and with the health care system experiencing manageable hospitalization and intensive care cases, the Government of Alberta implemented a Relaunch program of the economy and services and currently the Province is at Stage II of the program. The Province's Public Health Emergency declaration was not renewed and expired on June 15, 2020. That said, the Province continues to promote various safe practices and prevention and Ministerial Orders, Orders in Council, and Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders remain to help prevent the spread of the infectious and deadly virus.

The City of Chestermere's State of Local Emergency and all local Orders issued by the Director of Emergency Management and the Chestermere Emergency Management Agency, to align with the Government of Alberta, were respectively terminated on June 15 and June 12, 2020.

On June 26, 2020, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, issued Order 26-2020 which requires all persons in Alberta attending an indoor or an outdoor location to maintain a minimum of two (2) meters distance from every other person, unless these persons are members of the same household or cohort group. These measures are to help prevent the spread of the virus.

On July 16, 2020, the Province of Alberta reported 120 new cases of COVID-19, the highest daily case in over two months. The Province's Chief Medical Officer of Health indicated a concern for a rising infection rate, especially in people aged 20-39 who have shown to have contact with upwards of 20 individuals within their infection period, compared to an average of 6 contacts in months previous.

As a result of recent and now frequent overcrowding by Chestermere and non-Chestermere residents at the City of Chestermere's public beaches, as witnessed and documented by the Alberta Health Services on July 11, 2020, an urgent meeting was coordinated by the Government of Alberta's Pandemic Response Team, and included Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, with City of Chestermere officials on July 15, 2020. The result of the meeting was a commitment to collaboratively work to reduce the imminent and foreseeable dangers related to COVID-19 as a result of beach overcrowding. This included collaboratively enhancing public communication on the topic of beach overcrowding and the public safety and health dangers related to COVID-19, as well as implementing specific and proactive measures. The Province committed to developing a **Guidance for Beaches and Recreational Areas Near Water** document designed to educate and minimize beach overcrowding. This document was released and is dated July 17, 2020. The City of Chestermere officials committed to increasing health safety signage, increasing the number of hand sanitizing stations, placing physical distancing reminders at key locations at washroom/changerooms, limiting the number of persons entering the washroom/changerooms at any one time, enhancing of the use of social media and other communications means to alert beach goers of the dangers of overcrowding and failing to follow public health orders and guidance documents, increasing the cleaning and sanitization schedule for the washroom/changerooms, and following guidance specific to operators/local authorities detailed in the **Guidance for Beaches and Recreational Areas Near Water** document, dated July 17, 2020.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE *MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT*, RSA 2000, c M-26, Sec. 541, Div. 4, THE CITY OF CHESTERMERE ORDERS:

1. WHEREAS AN IMMINENT AND FORSEEABLE DANGER TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH EXISTS RELATED TO OVERCROWDING OF THE CITY OF CHESTERMERE'S PUBLIC BEACHES; AND WHEREAS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA'S PANDEMIC RESPONSE TEAM, AND ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES' PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT CAPACITY LIMITS BE PLACED AT CHESTERMERE PUBLIC BEACHES TO PREVENT OVERCROWDING AND PROTECT THE PUBLICS' SAFETY, AS DETAILED IN THE PROVINCE'S **Guidance for Beaches and Recreational Areas Near Water** DOCUMENT; AND WHEREAS SUCH OVERCROWDING CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF THE PROVINCE'S CMOH ORDER 26-2020, THEREFORE A 'EMERGENCY' EXISTS AS PER SEC. 541 OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF ALBERTA, AND THE FOLLOWING IS ORDERED AS PER SEC. 551 OF THE SAME ACT:
 - a. All public beaches in the City of Chestermere shall have a maximum persons capacity for each beach, including the adjacent recreational area near water, to permit a maximum of one person per 16 sq. m. Each beach shall have the number of maximum persons capacity clearly posted.
 - b. Once a beach's maximum persons capacity has been met, no further entry by the public shall be permitted.
 - c. Implementing a plan to administer and monitor each beach and maximum persons capacity shall be the responsibility of the City of Chestermere, supported by Alberta Health Services.
 - d. Maximum capacity limits shall be closely monitored and amended as required by Order to maintain the public's safety.

2. OFFENCE:


In accordance with the Municipal Government Act, any person that contravenes this Order is guilty of an offence and may be subject to a fine of up to \$10,000.00, removal from the premises, or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or to both fine and imprisonment as per Provincial legislation.

3. IN EFFECT:

This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on July 19, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 p.m. on September 7, 2020, or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Chief Administrative Officer having determined that imminent and foreseeable danger to public safety and health no longer exists and therefore the emergency concluded.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

CITY OF CHESTERMERE

Per: 

Bernie Morton
Chief Administrative Officer, City of Chestermere