

Low community spread key to keeping COVID-19 out of Sask. schools

STEPHANIE TAYLOR
The Canadian Press

Saskatchewan's top doctor says the best way to keep COVID-19 out of schools is to keep community transmission of the virus low.

Dr. Saqib Shahab says he's reviewed different studies that found schools mirror what's happening in surrounding areas.

For more than a week, public health officials in Saskatchewan have been reporting only a handful of new cases after recent outbreaks on Hutterite colonies that contributed to a period of double-digit infection increases this summer.

Of the 1,611 total cases to date, the Ministry of Health says 482 have

no known exposure and 71 infections are being investigated.

Officials on Friday reported two more infections and say the province is down to 44 active cases, about half of which are on colonies.

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe says the province now boasts one of the lowest rates of active infections outside the Maritimes.

"The fact that we have low community transmission is the most important thing we can do to minimize the chance of a case or a cluster emerging in school," Shahab said at a news conference Friday.

"That's No. 1."

With classes resuming Sept. 8 and more people moving inside as the

summer heat cools, Shahab encouraged residents to keep their group of close contacts small.

He also said it's natural for families to worry about sending their children to school in a pandemic.

Canada's chief medical health officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, said parents should expect to see cases of the virus in schools.

Shahab said what he's reviewed shows that, generally, the transmission of COVID-19 isn't as effective in young children as it is in adults.

"The evidence we have seen and with all the (safety) layers that have been applied is that they'll be less common than what we've seen in our workplaces," he said.

Manitoba sees more COVID-19 cases, but test positivity rate drops

The Canadian Press

WINNIPEG

The Manitoba government is reporting 32 new COVID-19 cases, and says the percentage of people testing positive has started to drop from a recent spike.

Health officials say the five-day test positivity rate now stands at 2.3 per cent, down from three per cent

earlier this week.

The number had been higher after mobile testing units were sent to communities where outbreaks had been reported.

Of the new cases, 18 are in the Prairie Mountain health region in the west where, since Monday, people have been required to use masks in public places and limit public

gatherings to 10 people.

Seven of the new cases are in Winnipeg, six in the Southern health region and one is in the Interlake-Eastern region.

Starting Saturday, the city of Winnipeg says everyone will be required to wear masks while riding transit buses or upon entering city-operated facilities.

PUBLIC NOTICES



8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....	403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.....	403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.....	403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....	403.526.2828

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED AUGUST 20 TO AUGUST 26, 2020 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

2037 HAWTHORNE AVENUE NE	(Lot 1, Block 6, Plan 8310543) PLDP20201012. Single Detached House (Covered Deck).	
1301 YUILL STREET SE	(Lot 1, Block 19, Plan 481M) PLDP20201058. Single Detached House (Addition and Covered Deck).	
1833 19 AVENUE SE	(Lot 11 Block 2, Plan 2662JK) PLDP20201078. Garage (Shed).	
1130 ELM STREET SE	(Lot 17, Block 16, 10, Plan 481M) PLDP20201101. Garage.	
887 A 5 ST SE	(Lot 11 Block 38, Plan 56507) PLDP20201132. Garage.	

COMMERCIAL

103 633 16 STREET SW	(Lot 13,11, Block 14, Plan 3420AH) PLDP20201179. One Projecting Sign.
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HOME OCCUPATION

305 11 STREET NE	(Lot 12, Block A, Plan 7410088) PLDP20201079. Customers To Attend Site. Manicure/Pedicure/Aesthetics.
332 ALLOWANCE AVENUE SE	(Lot 8, Block 26, Plan 56507) PLDP20201123. Office With Storage On Site. Mobile Food Vendor.
240 TERRACE DRIVE NE	(Lot 12, Block 4, Plan 0413780) PLDP20201135. Office With Storage On Site. Amusement/Vending Machine Distributor.
109 ANSON AVENUE SE	(Lot 29, Block 3, Plan 8010927) PLDP20201154. Office With Storage On Site. Painting and Decorating.
62 TAYLOR CRESCENT SE	(Lot 70, Block 32, Plan 8710776) PLDP20201165. Customers To Attend Site. Health Studio/Fitness Centre.
5 BRENTWOOD LANE SE	(Block 18, Plan 0614693) PLDP20200015441. Office With Storage On Site. Janitorial Service.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty-one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

WATER MAIN FLUSHING & FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS

Environmental Utilities performs regular, routine maintenance to uphold the water quality and system infrastructure by annually flushing water mains and inspecting fire hydrants.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will disappear when flushing is complete. Please note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discoloration persist beyond three hours, turn on your cold water tap or an outside sprinkler and let the water run for several minutes until the water runs clear.

For additional information or to confirm whether crews are working in your zone, refer to the Water Flushing Programs page on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca/eu or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

BYLAW #4634 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE LAND USE BYLAW #4168

TAKE NOTICE that City Council gave First Reading on Monday, August 17, 2020 to Bylaw #4634, a Bylaw of the City of Medicine Hat to amend the Land Use Bylaw #4168 to make improvements to land use regulations and better align regulations with Alberta Building Safety Codes.

A Public Hearing in general accordance with the Municipal Government Act and the City's Procedure Bylaw, and consideration of the Second/Third Readings of proposed Bylaw #4634 will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers at the address below on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, beginning at approximately 6:30 pm. This meeting will be open to the public with adjustments in place to ensure alignment with current Alberta Health requirements related to COVID-19. Any person who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw may make representation to City Council at the Public Hearing. Oral submissions are limited to five minutes.

Anyone wishing to have a written submission concerning this proposed bylaw placed before the City Council must submit it to:

City Clerk Department, 580 First Street SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8E6

by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

All submissions are treated as public documents.

For further information, or to view copy of proposed Bylaw #4634 and related documents, please contact Planning & Development Services at 403.529.8374. Bylaw #4634 may also be accessed via the 'Proposed Bylaws' section on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca.

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 22nd day of August, 2020.

Angela Cruickshank, City Clerk
Phone 403.529.8234
Fax 403.529.8324
E-mail: clerk@medicinehat.ca

BYLAW #4635 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE LAND USE BYLAW #4168 352, 354, & 358, 360 & 364, 366 RANGLANDS BLVD. NE

TAKE NOTICE that City Council gave First Reading on Monday, August 17, 2020 to Bylaw #4635, a Bylaw of the City of Medicine Hat to amend the Land Use Bylaw #4168 to rezone the subject land (352, 354, & 358, 360 & 364, 366 Rangelands Blvd. NE) from Low Density Residential (R-LD) to Medium Density Residential (R-MD) to allow for 4 units on each parcel.

A Public Hearing in general accordance with the Municipal Government Act and the City's Procedure Bylaw, and consideration of the Second/Third Readings of proposed Bylaw #4635 will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers at the address below on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, beginning at approximately 6:30 pm. This meeting will be open to the public with adjustments in place to ensure alignment with current Alberta Health requirements related to COVID-19. Any person who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw may make representation to City Council at the Public Hearing. Oral submissions are limited to five minutes.

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Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 22nd day of August, 2020.

Angela Cruickshank, City Clerk
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E-mail: clerk@medicinehat.ca

Alberta oil shipped through Panama Canal to Atlantic Canada to avert COVID-19 threat to energy supply

The Canadian Press

On July 20, the tanker Cabo de Hornos delivered an estimated 450,000 barrels of crude oil to the Irving Oil refinery's Canaport storage facilities in Saint John, N.B.

What made Cabo de Hornos's delivery different was that it was the first time crude oil had arrived in Saint John by ship from Alberta. It came via the Trans Mountain pipeline to the Westbridge Marine Terminal in Burnaby, B.C., and then through the Panama Canal.

By the end of April next year, a second tanker will arrive at Canaport carrying 350,000 to one million barrels of Western Canadian crude oil. In this case, the oil will have come via pipeline from Alberta to a crude oil exporting terminal in Texas or Louisiana.

For most of the Saint John refinery's 50 years of operation, it has relied on crude oil from sources outside Canada, including Saudi Arabia, the United States, Norway and Nigeria, to meet most of its demand. In 2019, about 80 per cent came from non-Canadian sources, with the remainder from offshore Newfoundland and Labrador by tanker and Western Canada by rail.

Any event — such as a COVID-19 outbreak in any of these oil-supplying countries — that disrupts the flow of crude oil to the refinery threatens the energy security of most people in Atlantic Canada.

Crude oil supply Relying on non-Canadian suppliers has never been an issue for the refinery. Even during the low points of Canadian-Saudi relations in the summer of 2018 and periods of increased tension in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia has been one of its principal suppliers. (Part of this may be attributable to the fact that about 60 per cent of the refinery's output is shipped to New England and U.S.-Saudi relations could be affected if Saudi Arabia's supplies to the Saint John refinery were disrupted.)

However, COVID-19 is a concern for those running the refinery. In April, Irving Oil applied to the Canadian Transportation Agency to use tankers from unspecified, non-Canadian suppliers for these two shipments, as per the requirements of the Coasting Trade Act. In each application it was made clear that the company's overriding concern was the impact COVID-19 could have on about 80 per cent of its crude oil supply shipped from non-Canadian sources.

This is a legitimate concern. Globally, the health of ships' crews has become an increasingly critical issue since the start of the pandemic. In many countries, fear of COVID-19 on ships has stopped shipboard crews from disembarking and returning home to their families, and new crews from boarding ships.

This is forcing shipboard crews to continue working well beyond the end of their contractual period of employment. Reports of mental anguish, self-harm and suicide have also been reported.

A COVID-19 outbreak in an oil-producing country or on board a tanker could disrupt the flow of crude oil to the Saint John refinery and, consequently, disrupt the flow of its refined products to most of Atlantic Canada and New England.

Oil consumption in Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Canadians consume about 20 per cent more gasoline per capita than Canadians as a whole. With limited access to natural gas, about 31 per cent of the energy used for space heating in the region comes from heating oil (compared with 5.1 per cent nationally).

Irving Oil's decision to find alternate ways to access Western Canadian crude oil from British Columbia via the Panama Canal or the U.S. Gulf Coast will undoubtedly increase the diversity of its supply. However, Irving's concerns over COVID-19 and its international suppliers and shippers are equally applicable to Western Canada's oilfields and any ships used to carry the crude oil.

To be fair, Irving has few other choices: crude-by-rail is a possibility, but there is limited capacity in its rail yard; TransCanada killed the Energy East project and even if it could be revived, it would take years to complete.

While restructuring Atlantic Canada's energy system to become less reliant on oil is the obvious answer, there are few short-term solutions. For example, although Churchill Falls could meet part of the region's energy demand for electricity, heating and transportation, it will not be available until 2041, when the electricity sales contract between Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec comes to an end.

Without access to low-cost electric vehicles and easily accessible charging stations, gasoline will remain the principal fuel of choice for transportation in Atlantic Canada. On the other hand, there are alternatives for space heating, notably electricity and wood, each of which already meet about 30 per cent of the region's residential demand for heating.

In the meantime, Atlantic Canadians can hope for an effective, widely accepted vaccine and prepare for periodic oil supply disruptions.

This article was originally published on The Conversation, an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. Disclosure information is available on the original site.

Author: Larry Hughes, Professor and Founding Fellow at the MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance, Dalhousie University

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