



CITY OF SURREY
PROACTIVE 10 POINT ACTION PLAN | COVID-19 PANDEMIC



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Message from Mayor & Council



Mayor Doug McCallum

In response to the ongoing and rapidly evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, the City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is in constant dialogue with public health authorities, including Fraser Health and the BC Centre for Disease Control.

The Emergency Operations Centre has been activated since mid-February to ensure essential City services, such as water, sewers, police, and fire are maintained for the well-being and safety of our community, with measures put in place to keep our staff and front-line responders safe. The EOC plan in place is a proactive and measured response and will be regularly updated as needed.

With the uncertainties of COVID-19, the City of Surrey is also doing its part to stimulate the local economy and create local jobs. Recently new measures were introduced to help provide opportunities for new work including advancing essential engineering projects across the City.

Along the way, I am heartened that our residents have not let down their guard and maintained the practice of physical distancing to fight the spread of COVID-19. The message is clear: stay the course as we battle to flatten the curve.

On behalf of Mayor and Council, I want to thank and commend Surrey residents for doing their part to curb the spread of the virus. We also ask that people stay home and avoid gatherings whenever possible and frequently wash their hands.

Over time, I know that we come out of this pandemic stronger and more resilient as a community. We will keep you informed as our plan is updated in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely, Mayor Doug McCallum



Councillor Annis



Councillor Elford



Councillor Guerra



Councillor Hundial



Councillor Locke



Councillor Patton



Councillor Pettigrew



Councillor Nagra



EOC Director Update

OUR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (EOC) IS THE COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS HUB FOR ANY LARGE EMERGENCY OR DISASTER THAT IMPACTS THE CITY, INCLUDING THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

The City of Surrey first commenced planning work on the pandemic in late January in response to the first reported US case and initiation of the quarantine in Wuhan, China. The City's EOC was activated February 17, 2020 prior to the World Health Organization declaring a worldwide pandemic. This was done to ensure essential City services, such as water and other utilities, police, and fire, were maintained and to work toward phased planning and concise actions. The City's leadership team is following the BC Emergency Management System model and Incident Command Structure (ICS); the latter is considered the gold standard of emergency response. It defines clear roles and actions and has proven effective during our emergency response.

Protecting our citizens' and employees' health during the COVID-19 pandemic is our first priority. As such we have been following the advice of both the Federal and Provincial Medical Health Officers and monitoring the global response. We have taken swift and effective measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Surrey and we're playing our part within Metro Vancouver at large.

The ramifications of the pandemic are far-reaching and as we work to protect the health of our citizens and employees, we must also protect the City's

economic interests and operations. This will require leadership and innovative thinking now and into the future. Forecasting various scenarios our City may face is essential. We are already working on this.

Last but not least, we are carefully documenting our actions and outcomes to help us learn during these unprecedented times. This medical crisis will pass, but regrettably, not without more heartache and loss. But we will recover, and we will ensure that we use this experience to bolster our capacity to manage future challenges.

This report provides the public with an overview of our status, concerns, mitigations and our intent is to update the report weekly as new information arises.

I wish to thank you for your support, community contributions and perseverance especially for those who are working on the frontlines. The City of Surrey and its people are strong and resilient. Together we will get through these trying times.

Vincent Lalonde | EOC Director



Global Mitigation & Suppression

The worldwide outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19 is a medical crisis unmatched in modern times.

There is broad recognition that a coordinated response at the global, national, provincial and municipal level is required and like so many parts of the world, a state of emergency has been declared in British Columbia.

As of April 14, 2020, there are approximately 1,980,003 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 126,557 people have perished worldwide. There are approximately 25,580 cases in Canada (779 deaths) and 1,490 confirmed cases in BC, the vast majority of which are in the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Valley Health regions. 72 British Columbians have died.

The global impact of COVID-19 has been profound, and the public health threat it represents is the most serious seen in a respiratory virus since the 1918 influenza pandemic. According to the World Health Organization, over 5% of COVID-19 infected patients die, a significantly higher mortality rate than influenza at 0.1%. As such, countries are increasingly implementing a broad range of responses to buy time for scientists to hopefully deliver a new vaccine within 18 months. It is important to note that COVID-19 is in the same family of coronaviruses as the 2001 SARS and 2012 MERS, no vaccines suitable for humans have been successfully developed to date.

In the absence of a COVID-19 vaccine, a recent article by the Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team in London assessed the potential role of several public health measures aimed at reducing contact rates in the population and reducing transmission of the virus. Public health officials currently predict that these measures will be in place for a long time in order to prevent future waves of infection. At the broadest level, two measures are possible:

1. Mitigation, which focuses on slowing but not necessarily stopping epidemic spread – reducing peak healthcare demand while protecting those most at risk of severe disease from infection. However, mitigation is unlikely to be feasible without emergency surge capacity limits of the healthcare systems being exceeded many times over and has not been widely adopted by any country.

2. Suppression, which aims to reverse epidemic growth, reducing case numbers to low levels and maintaining that situation indefinitely and is the current dominant public health strategy in BC and across Canada.

- a. Suppression activities such as population-wide physical distancing applied to the population as a whole is likely to have the largest impact; and in combination with other interventions – notably home isolation of cases and school and university closure – has the potential to suppress transmission below the threshold required to rapidly reduce case incidence.

- b. If intensive suppression activities are not maintained transmission will rapidly rebound, potentially producing an epidemic comparable in scale to what would have been seen had no interventions been adopted.

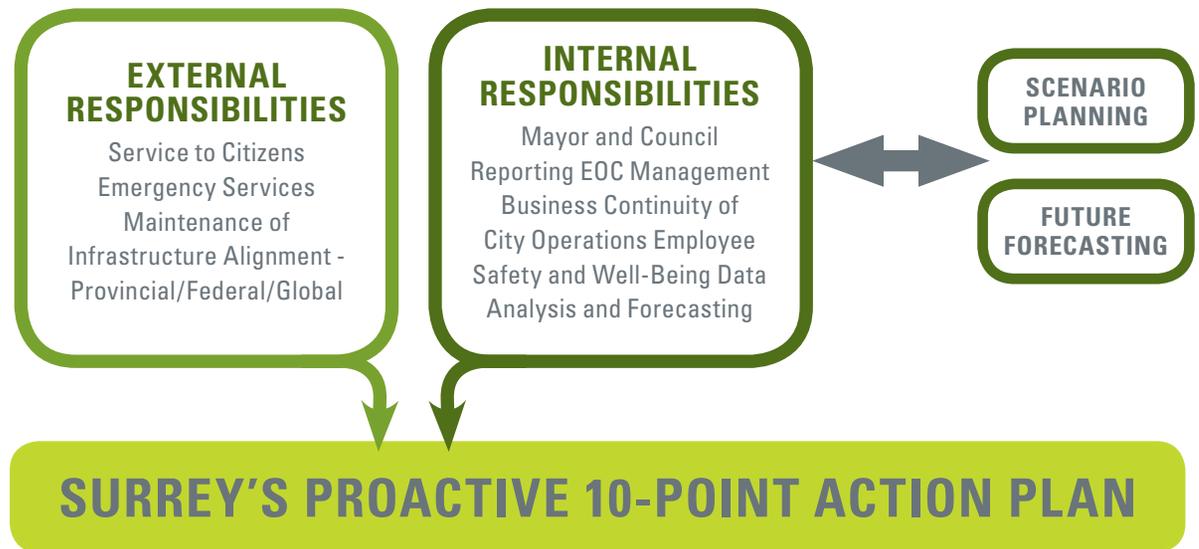
Proactive Responses to Challenges | This table itemizes noted challenges associated with pandemics in urban settings, along with suggested proactive responses to those challenges.

CHALLENGE	PROACTIVE RESPONSE
High population density and high volume of public transportation can accelerate spread of disease through casual contact in public areas and a lack of contact tracing.	Proactively consider epidemic preparedness in planning and development; support enhanced ability for effective contact tracing.
Governance by local authorities means cities have great responsibility but have finite budgets and limited options for enhanced resources.	Advocate provincially and federally for local resourcing and localized solutions and collaborative approaches with local agencies and government including consolidated local surveillance data to aid policy decisions at all levels of government.
Diverse and heterogeneous communities make contact with some vulnerable groups difficult.	Mobilize community leaders to develop targeted approaches to preparedness and response.
High connectivity to other urban centres (domestic and international) means high likelihood of importation and spread of viruses.	Evidence-based points of entry measures and exit screening measures can be implemented; trust can be built through strong diplomatic relations to ensure strong collaboration.
Unconventional communications and interactions lead to misinformation spreading quickly.	Determine and utilize unconventional but reliable information channels and social media for risk communication.
Unprecedented economic challenges for businesses and residents due to public health restrictions across BC and Canada.	Proactively reach out to local businesses to understand their needs and continually connect with them to improve access to available government support programs.



About the 10-Point Action Plan

The city has adopted a 10-Point Action Plan toward proactively mitigating and suppressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and guide the day-to-day emergency response during the pandemic. The planning model uses data from multiple sources to aid future forecasting. The 10-Point Action Plan addresses both internal responsibilities and external responsibilities both short and long term to guide its day-to-day actions.



The plan will be responsive to changing conditions and enable the city to continue to monitor the situation in real time and adapt to government and health organization recommendations. This plan will be updated on a weekly basis and key actions adjusted as new information arises and forecasts are revised. Ultimately the goal is to ensure the greatest possible protection for citizens' and employees' individual health and the stability and economic well-being of businesses and the community during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergency Plan Framework

The main objective of the City’s pandemic emergency response Plan is to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens and employees. The City will focus on its responsibilities, responses and recovery, and relationships with the public and other agencies will be particularly important.



Update of Key Actions (April 14)

The below table shows a high-level overview of key actions that relate to each aspect of the City's Ten Point plan response to the COVID-19 global pandemic as of the April 14th update period.

POINT	ACTION ITEM	KEY ACTION AS OF 2020-04-14
1	Commit to Local Government Leadership	<p>In January, Surrey Emergency Program planning coordinators reviewed and updated the Corporate Pandemic Business Continuity plan.</p> <p>A Pandemic Planning Leadership group with five department heads was formed for twice weekly meetings to review the COVID-19 situation and start aligning communications and prevention strategies.</p> <p>Inter-Office Memorandum (IOM) were used to inform Mayor and Council on the COVID-19 pandemic status.</p> <p>Pandemic Response Committee was formed with a larger senior management group. Daily meetings were scheduled to align and prepare all departments of the pending pandemic.</p> <p>Provided the Elected Officials COVID Pandemic Emergency Management Guide to Mayor and Council.</p> <p>Presented regular Update IOM's to Mayor and Council on the Pandemic.</p> <p>To mitigate the anticipated negative impact by COVID-19 ongoing financial analysis and modelling to understand and consider methods for lessening the potential impact to the City have been undertaken.</p>
2	Activate Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)	<p>The EOC was activated on February 17, 2020. It supports a prescribed set of response goals set out in priority as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for the safety and health of all responders • Save lives • Reduce suffering • Protect public health • Protect government infrastructure • Protect property • Protect the environment • Reduce economic and social losses.

		<p>The EOC has daily virtual meetings to share information and ensure management have updates on new issues or actions taken.</p> <p>Established a document sharing site to enable consistent and thorough documentation of the responses to the pandemic and future planning.</p> <p>The EOC developed a model for three levels of City operations to aid with resource management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1 – Modified Business Services • Level 2 – Critical Business Services • Level 3 – Essential Services <p>Division Managers started a process to validate their essential lines of business and identify staffing needs at each level. The City is currently at level 1 – Modified Business Services.</p> <p>Prepared Surrey’s Proactive 10-Point Action Plan as a mechanism for the coordination and documentation of the totality of the City’s response to the pandemic.</p> <p>A Fraser Health representative has joined the Surrey EOC organization and participates in the daily updates as a Fraser Health Liaison.</p>
3	<p>Ensure safety & well-being of our employees and citizens</p>	<p>Activated the Emergency Preparedness Program, including the Pandemic Leadership Committee.</p> <p>Implemented communication measures for hazard awareness and control to staff, residents, and patrons of facilities.</p> <p>To prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout civic facilities, implemented a Hazard Management program, which included physical distancing measures, providing mobile and stationary hand sanitizing stations throughout City facilities and worksites and frequent disinfecting of areas and other preventative measures.</p> <p>Developed COVID-19 protocols for: managing workplace exposures; cleaning and disinfection; and travel.</p> <p>Deployment of the COVID-19 Compliance & Enforcement Team to respond to complaints related to public health order violations and to actively provide education to residents and businesses regarding their responsibilities.</p>
4	<p>Implement/monitor guidelines on non-essential gatherings & facility access</p>	<p>As per the guidelines of the Provincial Medical Officer, the City has modified business practices to ensure that most business units within the City can function in a remote or socially distanced fashion.</p> <p>Facilities that have limited access to the public have greeters screening clients and will turn away clients that meet COVID-19 criteria of isolation. In addition, clients are being asked to set up appointments that can be run remotely so they are not required to come to City Facility.</p> <p>Health and Safety staff have developed procedures of disinfection along with sanitizers for city vehicles and staff that don’t have access to water to wash their hands (outside workers).</p> <p>City Hall open to the public by appointment only - access points into City Hall have been restricted and are monitored throughout the business day and staff is required to greet scheduled visitors in the atrium.</p>

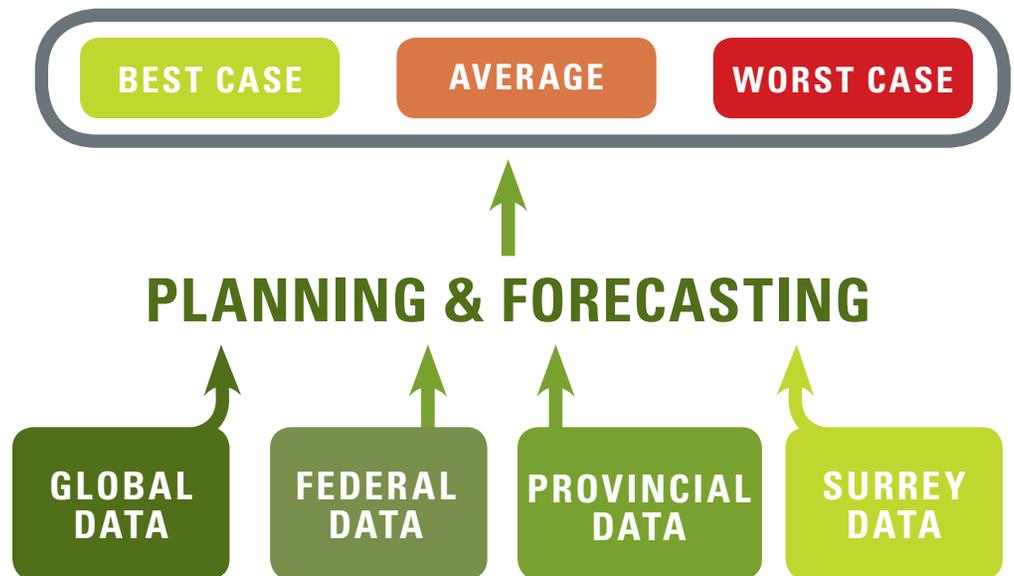
5	Ready our local economy for recovery	<p>Conduct a Business Impact Survey, direct outreach with local businesses to understand the magnitude of impact on them from COVID-19.</p> <p>Initiate Surrey Store to Door campaign by promoting opportunities for Surrey residents to buy locally sold goods online – include expediting restaurants to register on UberEats and DoorDash online food delivery platforms.</p> <p>Establish and curate a COVID-19 business resource page to allow businesses to easily gain access to federal and provincial business support programs.</p> <p>Identify emergency government procurement opportunities for local manufacturers and suppliers.</p> <p>Initiate Surrey Makes PPE initiative to jointly promote over 20 local manufacturers that are retooling to produce essential health equipment for first responders and health workers.</p>
6	Support regional and provincial public health needs	<p>Closed City facilities (recreation centres, civic ice arenas, culture facilities, museums, public pools, and libraries) as per direction of Public Health Officer and executed deep cleaning of closed facilities.</p> <p>Developed clear guidelines for staff as they deal with colleagues and members of the public to ensure social distancing.</p> <p>Rolled out remote work opportunities where possible with full or almost full access to required applications to continue provide services.</p> <p>Implemented call centres and digital portals allowing clients access to staff and city services remotely, including credit card payments over the phone.</p> <p>Developed guidelines to mitigate water shut offs to ensure no disruption of water to residents and businesses.</p> <p>Fraser Health EOC is now working with other Cities to develop Emergency Response Centres to help their vulnerable populations, this based on Surrey’s model that was done in collaboration with Fraser Health and BC Housing</p>
7	Implement a 3-level plan for critical & essential services	<p>Established three levels of service for activities in the City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level One – Modified Business Services are taking place. • Level Two – Critical Business Services in place, such as issuance and processing of permits, infrastructure operations, continuing with active capital projects, supporting the efforts of essential service provision. • Level Three – Essential Services in place only, including: Police, Fire, Bylaws, waste collection, traffic management, water and sewer operations, etc. <p>Created comprehensive departmental plans for the implementation of the three levels of service.</p>

<p>8</p>	<p>Communicate clearly & often to our employees, citizens & partners</p>	<p>For employees, implemented a dedicate Intranet site along with daily updates through bulletins, team sites and satellite employee and manager websites devoted to COVID-19 and communicated a clear and concise workforce adjustment planning agreement to staff.</p> <p>Established a prominent devoted web presence and City information hub for COVID-19 that includes the latest news and updates, important health and travel info, and notices on event cancellations and facility closures.</p> <p>A digital first approach channelling customers to the City website and social channels for the latest City related information on COVID-19. Our online platforms are updated multiple times daily as new info arises. Digital billboards and transit shelter ads are used to display important COVID-19 related information and messaging info at street level. An information email is available for inquiries with most inquiries responded to within the same day.</p> <p>Established phone lines for appointment only at city hall, elevated online services and implemented signage, posters and flyers at sites and facilities impacted by closures or in need of public safety messaging.</p> <p>Launched social media campaign under the banner #SurreyFlattensTheCurve.</p> <p>Surrey Libraries regularly update their Covid-19 Information and Programs on their website to ensure timely and accurate information for their patrons.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Coordinate with other public agency partners across the City</p>	<p>The EOC has clear roles for section chiefs to ensure communications with partners and the public are in place and coordinated.</p> <p>Close collaboration with FHA and BC Housing and their service providers on ensuring proper process to deal with homeless population.</p> <p>Direct contact with the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) and sharing of information between PREOC and City's EOC.</p> <p>Connection with Surrey business community and non - profit service providers through web and phone communications.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Forecast Future Scenarios to determine how to minimize impact and aid recovery</p>	<p>Conduct research and analysis to establish a working model to understand the impact of COVID-19 on City operations and our society including infection rate forecasts.</p> <p>Collaborate with Fraser Health Authority, and senior levels of government to coordinate and share data to allow for accurate representation of the current state.</p> <p>Use data collected from reliable sources to inform future forecasting and scenario planning during the pandemic and into the recovery and stabilization phases.</p> <p>Complete rigorous financial analysis and modelling based on current understanding, assumptions and actions of other municipalities in order to mitigate impacts.</p>



Future Forecasting

As part of the 10 Point Planning model, data from global, federal, provincial and local sources is continually gathered and analyzed to inform the action plan. Key indicators are assessed continually both within the City's operations and public health authorities to support decisions and planning. This insight supports modeling and future forecasting for the periods during and after crisis as well into the recovery and stabilization phases. Emergency planning includes scenario forecasting (best case, average, and worst case) to understand the range of impacts and responses that are likely required. Plans are adapted continually as new data emerges.



Key Indicators

The City has determined key indicators to help guide key decisions and aid the EOC in identifying when additional actions or responses are needed. Data is drawn from WHO and Canadian public health and government sources as well as the City’s own tracking regarding its operations.

CITY OPERATIONS INDICATORS
Direct costs to city operations related to COVID-19 (e.g., purchase of new personal protective equipment, staff overtime for EOC duties etc.)
Percentage of employees on sick leave or in quarantine and unable to work due to COVID-19 exposure
Percentage of Critical Infrastructure (Engineering Facilities) open
Percentage of Fire Halls operating with limited public access
City facilities with no public access (by type)

PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATORS
New Cases in Previous Day
New Cases in Previous Week
Percentage of New Cases in Previous Day
Percentage of New Cases in Previous Week
Percentage Hospitalized
Percentage ICU
Percentage Mortality

Partner Agencies & Authorities

THE GLOBAL RESPONSE – THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The World Health Organization (WHO), is an agency of the United Nations. Its mission is to promote health and control communicable diseases. Its primary role is to direct international health and to lead partners in global health responses.

On March 11, 2020 the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic given the number of cases reported at that point and the sustained risk of further global spread. A pandemic is defined as a global spread of a new disease. The term is most often applied to new influenza strains, it's used when viruses are able to infect people easily and spread from person to person in an efficient and sustained way in multiple regions, according to the US Centre for Disease Control. The declaration of a pandemic refers to the spread of a disease, rather than the severity of the illness it causes.

The WHO does not dictate responses in each country. All countries are responsible to have their own plans in place at all levels of the government.



THE CANADIAN FEDERAL RESPONSE

About COVID-19

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Outbreak Update

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Canada's response

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/canadas-reponse.html>

Economic response

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

BC PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

BC Centre for Disease Control

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

Provincial support and information

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

To stay informed on the City's Emergency Response on the COVID-19 Pandemic, please visit surrey.ca/covid19