

SK COVID-19 Timeline

Legend:

yellow highlight – indicates health announcements specific to/inclusive of LTC and older adults.

blue highlight – indicates holistic connections to older adult wellbeing.

Feb 20, 2020



SK releases "Coronavirus Information For Public And Healthcare Providers At Saskatchewan.ca" document. Travellers to Hubei, China, or those with close contact with the ill, advised to self isolate upon return for 14 days. Those travelling from other parts of China advised to monitor symptoms. Call 811 for symptom assessment and direction. Health care workers given guidance documents on screening respiratory illness and policy documents on infection control and how to manage return from China inquiries. SK Launches www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus to keep the public informed ¹.

SK phases in increased testing and surveillance activities. Provincial influenza preparedness plan adapted to COVID 19. Includes updates to case definition and testing procedures, enhanced testing at Roy Romanow Provincial Lab, review of acute care capacity, contingency planning, planning to ensure necessary supply of PPE. Those returning from Iran now requested to self-isolate in SK. Those returning from Iran and Hubei, China mandated to contact public health agent. Those returning to Canada from all countries advised to monitor cough and fever symptoms and self isolate and call 811 for guidance. Public advised that disease may appear mild or asymptomatic in up to 80% of individuals. Public advised to wash hands frequently, to not touch face, to use tissues and dispose or crook of elbow for coughing, and to stay home if ill. Businesses encouraged to update, and ready pandemic flu plans ².



Mar 5, 2020

WHO announces COVID 19 is a global pandemic. 119,100 people are confirmed infected globally, 4298 have died. Canada announces \$1 billion aid package including \$500 million for the provinces for initial response, \$275 million for research and public awareness, and \$100 million for national testing, indigenous communities, and stockpiling PPE ⁹⁹. **SK anticipates the pandemic will continue for at least a year** ¹⁰⁰.

Mar 11, 2020



Mar 12, 2020

SK second presumptive, now confirmed, case of COVID 19. Case linked to recent travel in the United States ⁵. Government evokes Section 45 of The Public Health Act and limits gatherings greater than 250 people in one room and excludes multi room facilities such as schools and universities; limits all events greater than 50 people with a speaker who has travelled internationally in 14 days; exempts retail locations and exempts faith based locations but encourages their utilization of public health advisors; SK encourages, but does not mandate, people who have travelled outside the province in the last 14 days to avoid visiting long term care homes and hospitals. SK also prohibits international travel for government businesses and government employees, and restricts their travel out of province pending approval by the Deputy Minister to the Premier. SK requires all returning government employees travelling internationally to self isolate for 14 days and seek symptom assessment guidance from 811. SK mandates all government employees experiencing any flu-like symptoms to "stay home". Outside of government office policy mandates, SK encourages, but does not mandate, all businesses to adopt similar strategies in the province. SK suspends tours of government buildings. SK doubles the capacity of 811 with plans to add more capacity as needed. SK announces plans for COVID 19 testing sites and increased testing capacity. SK plans to proceed with budget event with social distancing and less media ⁶. Virtual assessments available with physicians who offer the service ³⁶.

First presumptive, now confirmed, case of COVID 19 in SK. Case linked to recent travel in Egypt. All travellers returning to Canada advised to self isolate for 14 days and monitor symptoms and call 811 for guidance. Those who are symptomatic require mandatory testing. SK initiates first contact tracing protocols for COVID 19. Protocol for testing clarified: lab tests are conducted at Roy Romanow Labs and then forwarded to National Microbiology Lab in Winnipeg, MB for confirmation. SK first time encouraging public to social distance by avoiding physical contact gestures ³. First public event cancellation recorded in SK: Juno Awards event cancelled in Saskatoon ⁴.

Mar 13, 2020

Mar 14, 2020



SK and the Government of Canada recommend all Canadians abroad return to Canada and avoid all nonessential travel. SK mandates all returning international travellers self isolate for 14 days and monitor symptoms. SK advises but does not mandate self isolation and symptom monitoring for all travellers returning to the province from within Canada ⁷.

Public leisure centers, facilities, and libraries close voluntarily amid growing COVID 19 community spread concerns and related to the ban on public gatherings of 250 or more people enacted earlier. Libraries discourage returning books. Sports leagues announce closures for the remaining season. The U of S announces restructuring of classes to remote learning and a 3 day hiatus to prepare for the changes ⁸. Province confirms no known cases of community transmission at that time. Province outlines criteria for shuttering schools as: community transmission, rapid case increases, transmission without confirmed cause; SK decides to not close schools at this time ⁹.



Mar 15, 2020

Mar 16, 2020



SK announces closure of primary and secondary schools for an indefinite period effective March 20, 2020 due to evidence of community transmission in Alberta. Province announces plans for future supplemental education. Measures do not apply to non-school-connected daycares ¹⁰. Province announces concerns of product supply shortages due to hoarding behaviours, not supply chain. Province indicates in questioning that it has over 100 available ICU beds that are already mostly occupied outside the COVID 19 pandemic at the time; SK announces plans to ramp up availability of ICU beds coming ¹¹. Province evokes Section 45 of The Public Health Act and suspends all nonessential (compassionate family visits only) visitations to personal care homes, long term care homes, and hospitals. Faith based organizations are now restricted to gatherings of 250 or less. SK suspends opening of provincial casinos. SK encourages but does not mandate all SIGA casinos to follow suit ¹². SK launches self assessment tool at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-self-assessment> ¹³. NDP encourages parents after closing schools to not heap child care duties on older adults in the home to decrease risks to their health. SHA documents indicate self isolation for SHA employees is not required if symptoms are not present, but further guidance from OHS is required if returning from Hubei, Italy, or Iran. SHA documents indicate any employee, regardless of travel, experiencing symptoms, should not return to work. Anyone who was advised by a health professional or 811 to not return to work should not return to work. SHA documents also show they have suspended all community volunteer services provided by those 65 and older (document posted online at reference link) ¹¹. Public health officials begin speaking about "flattening the curve" to the public, and the word enters the public vernacular for the first time ^{15 16}.

Mar 17, 2020

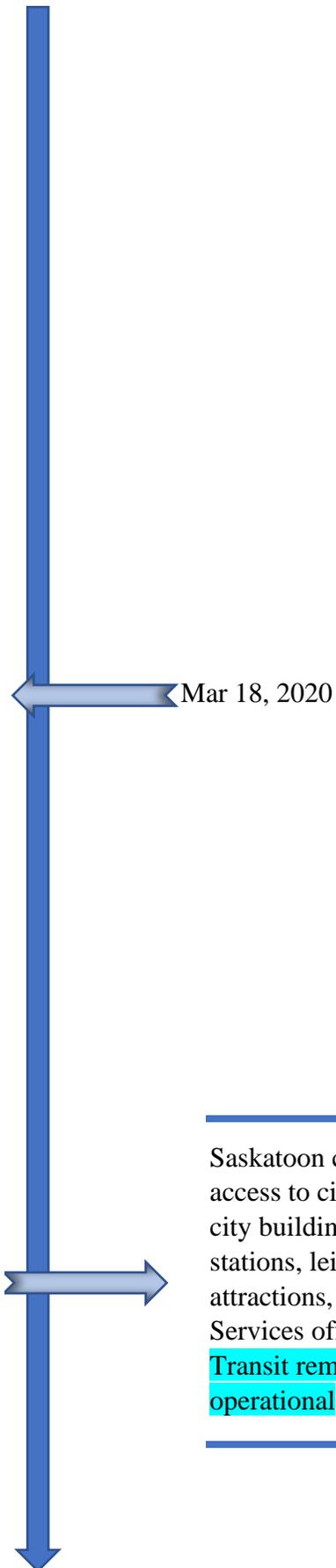


SK amends The Saskatchewan Employment Act to ensure: those employees less than 13 weeks into a job have access to sick leave time, remove provisions for doctors' notes, and introduce an unpaid public health emergency leave ¹⁴. SK increases capacity of 811 health line for 32 to 900 concurrent callers ⁴³.



SK declares State of Emergency over first suspected case of community transmission, and enacts the following measures: Bans gatherings of 50 or more people; Bans restaurants/bars/events from having crowds of 50% capacity or 50 people, whichever is smaller, and must ensure a minimum 1 meter distance between patrons ¹⁷; Grocery stores, pharmacies, and gas stations exempt but must maintain 1 meter rule; SK encourages work from home where possible ¹⁹; Gyms, fitness centers, bingo halls, casinos ordered closed; Residents advised but not mandated to limit all non essential travel out of province exempting border communities; Licenced restaurants can sell alcohol off sale; crown utilities can offer 0 interest bill deferral for 6 months; Crown corporations and government businesses phase in work from home programs effective March 23 for non essential employees; **SHA ordered to discontinue non urgent elective surgeries procedures and diagnostics as of March 23; mandate for redeployment of nurses and staff and supplies as needed; Cancer and emergent surgeries to continue as planned;** parents using daycares advised further restrictions were coming. **Option to connect with physicians virtually by phone or online is added for those offering the service**¹⁷. SK releases some accused held during trial period, but not inmates, on bail due to COVID 19 concerns ¹⁸. FSIN declares own State of Emergency. FSIN calls for closure of liquor stores as alcohol will encourage public gatherings, concerns over northern bootleggers. **SK predicts 30% of SK residents to contract COVID 19 and 2-5% of those requiring ICU.** SK government official first possible use of the term “social distancing” to public. SK encourages people to cancel private events ¹⁹. **SK limits prescription drug refills on all medication to 1-month supply** ¹⁴⁷.

Mar 19, 2020



Saskatoon closes public access to city hall and all city buildings: fire stations, leisure facilities, attractions, libraries. Services offered remotely. **Transit remains operational** ²⁰.

Mar 20, 2020



SK grants authority to law enforcement to enforce provincial health orders with arrests and up to a \$2000 fine²². SK bans public gatherings of more than 25 people except where 2-meter distancing can be maintained, workplaces with distributed staff, and grocery stores, pharmacies, and gas stations. All clubs and bars are ordered closed. Takeout and delivery are permitted with 2-meter distancing between customer and delivery. In person classes in primary and secondary schools suspended as announced earlier. SK clarifies health employees, truckers, rail workers, airline, or other working crews exempt from 14-day self isolation if providing essential services and are followed by OHS and/or Infection, Prevention Control officers. Those suspected close or in contact to an infected person will be ordered into 14 day self isolation with symptomatic guidance through 811. Effective Mar 23, all restaurants, bars, bingo halls, arenas, civic centers, galleries, theaters, personal service facilities (hair, etc), dental, optometry, chiropractic, massage therapy, podiatry ordered closed (except non elective health services as needed). Day cares ordered a maximum of 8 children unless the center can keep 8 children in 1 room and still comply with regulations. LTC-connected childcare facilities that can meet the 8 child maximum restriction can operate only if it can be segregated and provide a separate entrance with no shared rooms and no contact between facilities. SK prioritizes daycare spaces connected to schools to essential services²¹. City of Regina declares own State of Emergency and announces ban on gatherings of 5 or more, and closures of restaurants and bars and non essential services immediately. NDP advocates for complete day care closures. FSIN advocates for public release of confirmed cases locations²². SK announces Self Isolation Support Program of \$450/wk for up to 2 weeks for those forced to self isolate not covered by the federally announced supports or sick leave or other employer-paid leave or other insured program. SK businesses unable to remit PST exempted from penalty. SK suspends audits. Student loan repayment moratorium for 6 months put in place. Employment Standard Regulations amended to allow employers during a state of emergency to lay off without pay in lieu of or notice if for 12 weeks or less in a 16-week period. Greater than 12 weeks, the employee is considered terminated and payment instead of notice is required. The employee would then benefit from the federal program in place. SK to establish a Business Response Team²³.

SK announces Roy Romanow Lab now can conduct confirmation testing. Capacity is approximately 456 tests per day.²⁶. SHA reverses policy on self isolation for staff, mandating all travelling health staff to self isolate 14 days. Staff already returned to work via prior policy must be supervised by infection control officers. Some dept. exemptions available by application⁷⁹.

Mar 21, 2020

Mar 22, 2020

SK clarifies that provincial restrictions and measures take precedence over municipal ones Re: Regina²⁴.

Mar 23, 2020

Announced SK closures and restrictions go into effect. Business Response Team launched. Its role is to provide information and direct businesses to resources and supports, or collect proposals for “fighting COVID 19”:
www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses. Employees also have a support site launched:
www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-workers²⁵.

SHA activate plan to create additional capacity: created dedicated spaces to cohort COVID 19 patients in facilities, creating dedicated COVID 19 hospitals where required, creating additional community based dedicated acute care spaces where required. Public reminded to use medical supplies efficiently and effectively. Provincial Emergency Operation Center established. Health Incident Command Centers established in each center (Saskatoon, Regina, Rural, North) tasked to deploy the continuity of service and surge capacity plans on local levels²⁷. A leaked SHA document based on early modelling of worst case scenarios predicts 300,000 infections in SK, 15,000 ICU admissions including 500-600 patient daily ventilation requirements, 2000 non ICU but acute infections, 9-15,000 deaths throughout the course of the pandemic. Early planning included cancellations of elective procedures, closing clinics and implementing virtual care, redistributing ALC (LTC waiting) patients from acute care spaces, repurposing spaces and creating spaces for COVID 19 cohorting, increasing ventilation capacity, monitoring provincial physical and mental health, and isolation and containment through screening and testing, testing and screening health workers, human resource management, triage plan update and implementation, centralizing inventory supply management, COVID 19 training, PPE protocols. St Paul’s would be dedicated non-COVID care space^{77 78}.

Mar 24, 2020

Mar 25, 2020



SK limits public gatherings to 10 people per room effective Mar 26³⁰. An exhaustive list of critical public services is released: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6819048-Critical-Public-Services-to-Address-COVID-19-and.html> includes health care, law enforcement, safety, first responders, specific government and community services, transport, supply chain, media, construction, repair, select retail, banking and financial services²⁸. SK delineates allowable/critical from non allowable services and applies restrictions on all non allowable services³⁰. Federal/Provincial \$28 million given to Saskatoon COVID-19 vaccine research. Criteria for human trials listed as: Effective in animals, and safe in humans²⁹. SK launches COVID-19 general information hotline: **1-855-559-5502** to free up 811 traffic³¹. SK announces it will be actively recruiting retired nurses and other health professionals to help during the pandemic³².

SK suspends eviction hearings except in the cases where health and safety are concerns or where landlords lock out tenants or cut off services unlawfully during the pandemic. Self isolation space deemed a priority over evictions³³.



Mar 26, 2020

SK parks closed to visitors. Parks will offer remote services to encourage stay at home activities starting Mar 30³⁴. 2 SK corrections officers test positive for COVID 19¹⁰¹. SK clarifies the following measures are taken in prisons: nurses monitor for symptoms, assess, test, and document. The offender's movement is restricted, medical cells are used, programs are limited, social distancing in place, increased hygiene teaching, enhanced cleaning protocols, and increased staff hand hygiene. PPE is provided to staff and offenders³⁵.

Mar 27, 2020



Mar 28, 2020

SK deploys more staff to assist SHA in contact tracing ³⁶.

First COVID 19 related deaths in SK, both 70+ y/o ³⁸.

Mar 29, 2020

Mar 30, 2020

SK changes rules regulating truckers. Hours increased to 14 per day if driver feels safe with recommended 24 hours break between shifts, mandatory 8 hours. Drivers required to self isolate only if symptoms present ³⁷. SK increases contact tracing human resources to 200. SK posts list of testing communities: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/testing-information> ³⁸.

Mar 31, 2020

SK announces Social Services Pandemic Response leveraging existing housing and providing new funds of \$171,000 to shelters to assist in space and social distancing, and enacting the Cold Weather strategy. Social services will leverage hotel space as needed. Those needing food and shelter can contact **1-866-221-5200**. Additional funding provided to keep older children from transitioning out of social care homes and younger children subsidized in their homes. **New Federal/Provincial Saskatchewan Housing Benefit planned April 1 for eligible seniors, families, couples, singles who rent from a non profit or coop, pay >50% for housing and utilities, have income assets below the program limit, do not receive additional housing benefits for \$150-\$250/mo benefit. Can call 1-844-787-4177.** Increased child family service employee supports include PPE and education. **SK states social services remains open. First hour opening dedicated to those most at risk. Offices recommend calling rather than coming 1-866-221-5200** ³⁹.

Apr 1, 2020



SK communication update. The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's toll free line, **1-855-559-5502** or website <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/public-health-orders/non-compliance-reporting-form> can be used to report public health order violations in the public ^{44 45}. SK government can answer public health enquiries at **COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca**. SK businesses or residents can offer essential supply donations at **procurement@gov.sk.ca**. SK will also be looking to repurpose some industries for essential needs ⁴⁵. SK advises citizens that in addition to the limit to 10 on group gatherings, to avoid all nonessential contact between different households and to not share items back and forth between households ⁴⁶. First grocery store employee reported to have contracted COVID-19 in SK in community transmission. SK clarifies it would only announce a public advisory in this situation if all traced contacts could not be contacted ⁵⁰.

SK begins providing public information on COVID 19 cases by transmission category: travel, community contact, and unknown. SK advises LTC and other communal homes to avoid communal gatherings, dining, and other social contact and to enforce social distancing ⁴⁰. SK provincial parks reservations are cancelled and park opening plans delayed indefinitely ⁴¹. SK indicates group mental health services have been discontinued but mental health services in general still accessible and have launched mental health services by phone. School staff and students can receive remote mental health services after school closures as are indigenous services. If social distancing is possible, volunteer services in the community for groceries, etc encouraged ⁴². SHA mentions that factors affecting triage for ventilation if COVID 19 cases surge past capacity would include advanced medical directive, age, frailty, chronic illness, likelihood of recovery. As SHA builds its COVID 19 ethics guide, the SHA outlines its ethics document will include the value that everyone have equal opportunity to "live through the various phases of life" that would favour a younger adult over an older adult in an equal assessment. SHA indicates equal assessments are rare, other factors often exist. Families can appeal decisions made to the ethics committee in their facility ¹⁰⁹.

Apr 2, 2020



Apr 3, 2020



SK reports first staff member case of COVID-19 in an SK an assisted living facility in Regina, no confirmed transmission to other staff or residents. As a response, the facility was closed to admissions, discharges, and transfers. The staff member and any resident in close contact with the staff member was put on monitored self isolation for 14 days. SK institutes mandatory temperature and symptom checking in all LTC facilities to staff starting their shift. SK announces plans to have retiring and new health care staff members enter the work force with emergency licences and announces plans to pay their fees ⁴⁷. SK information and privacy commissioner calls for more transparency on who tests positive including locations ¹⁰¹.

SK now providing graphic representation of COVID-19 cases by region on their COVID-19 web page. SK reminds province that transmission risk is not linked to total number of cases ⁴⁸. SK provides additional guidelines for sanitation, infection control, and encourages but does not mandate customers do not bring home bags or containers. Clarification that cash handling is not likely to spread COVID-19. Glove usage guidelines and replacing gloves after each interaction is provided. Hand sanitizer and wipes should be available at doors. Floor markers are recommended for physical distancing. Staff and customer numbers at one time should be counted and tracked. Delivery and pickup service should be offered. Symptomatic customers should be turned away and offered delivery. Staff should monitor symptoms. Contingency for staff shortages should be in place ⁴⁹.



Apr 4, 2020



Apr 5, 2020

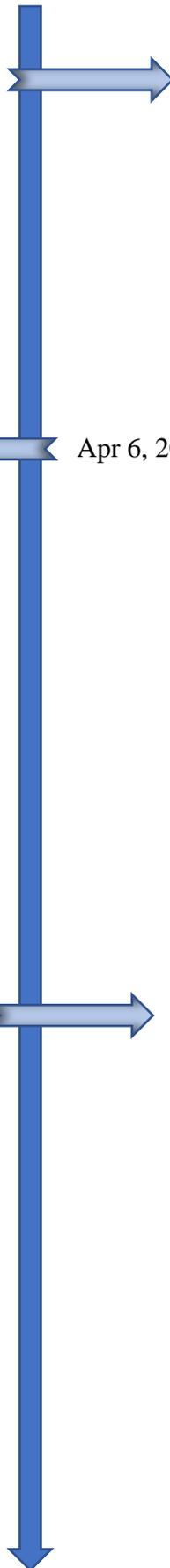
SK reminds public the SaskAlert App is now offering COVID-19 updates and health guidelines and direction, found at <http://emergencyalert.saskatchewan.ca/>⁵². SK recommends shoppers limit themselves to one person per household in store no more than once per week, and to make lists to avoid long browsing time⁵³. SK issues first civil fine for violation of public health order, to a private citizen 23 y/o for \$2800 for failing to comply with mandatory social isolation 14 days, tests positive⁵⁴. Some primary/secondary students return to classes via remote learning, more expected the following week. Learning is not graded, not mandatory⁵⁵. SK suggests medical masks can be worn in public but the greater intervention is still physical distancing of 2 meters¹⁰¹.

SK announces there is no evidence to date of Human to animal or livestock transmission of COVID-19 but it has not been ruled out. Recommendations is that animals should not be in contact with COVID-19 positive individuals and those that have been should also be socially isolated for 14 days⁵¹.

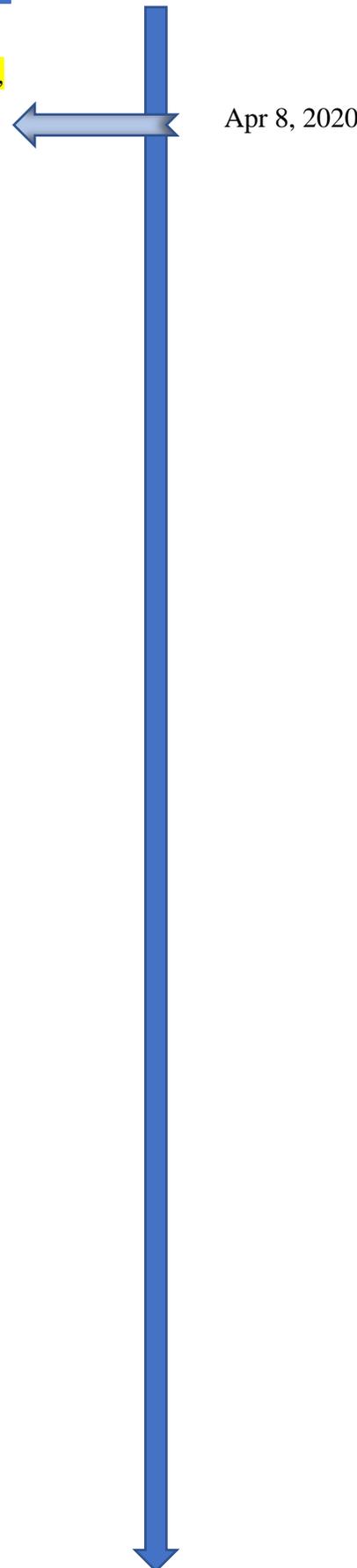
Apr 6, 2020

SK reminds people of social distancing and household cross contamination recommendations ahead of Easter for first time and provides tips to host virtual Easter and shop for Easter⁵⁶. SK opens a dedicated testing site for homeless and vulnerable peoples in Riversdale in Saskatoon¹⁰¹.

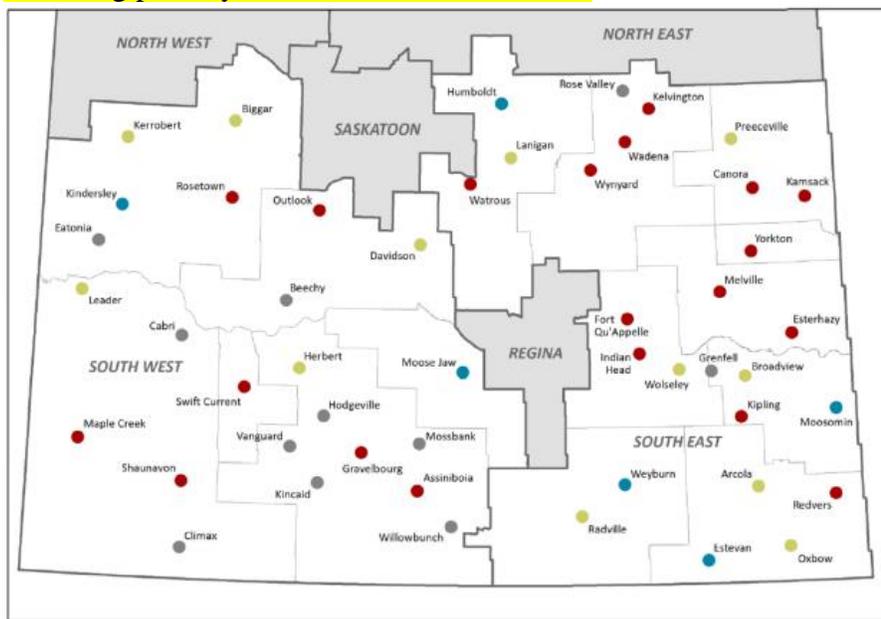
Apr 7, 2020



SHA releases SK modelling data for the first time and suggests the key interventions that work are public compliance in self isolation measures, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and staying at home whenever possible ⁵⁷. SHA releases plans to phase in an increase of 57% acute care space as needed. SHA plans continue to prepare to: dedicate COVID-19 space in hospitals, create COVID-19 spaces in the community as needed, and designating 20 of SK's 65 hospitals as COVID-19 hospitals as needed. SHA announces its slowdown of health services has created 43% acute bed space available for a surge ⁵⁷. Additional potential plans include: conversion of rural and southern hospitals to alternate level of care (LTC waiting for a room) and suspension of ER services in these sites to relocate staff as needed (see map below), creation of COVID -19 only hospitals and maintain ER services, continuing offering general practitioner care remotely while allocating primary care staff to other locations ⁵⁹.



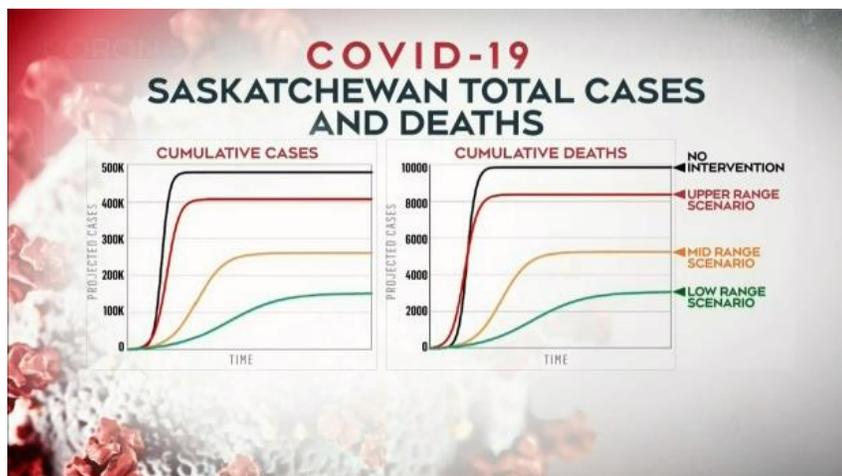
Apr 8, 2020



INTEGRATED RURAL COVID-19 Facility Information

- COVID patients only
- LTC/ALC only
- Non-COVID patients only
- Primary health care services reduced
- SHA Areas
- SHA Networks

59



58

Apr 9, 2020



SK offers \$1.5 million emergency aid to post secondary students through one-time bursaries, offers to help institutions put emergency student funds in place for future. Details to be made available in the next 7-10 days and pending federal programs ⁶⁰. SK announces Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment, a \$50 million fund that pays a one time grant equal to 15% of a business' monthly sales to a maximum of \$5000 for businesses ceasing operations due to COVID-19 with less than 500 employees ⁶¹. SK announces testing capacity is up to 1051 tests per day ⁶². SK announces has a 1-month supply of PPE available. VIDO Lab offers to disinfect N95 masks for reuse if needed (with vaporized hydrogen peroxide) ⁶⁶.

SK announces increased testing capacity with the addition of another COVID-19 testing machine to the Roy Romanow Lab. The community of Meadow Lake now has testing available ⁶³.



Apr 12, 2020

Apr 13, 2020



SK announces strict regulatory measures including prosecution for businesses found to be unjustifiably inflating prices during the COVID-19 pandemic evoking the The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act. Consumers encouraged to report to FCAA at **1-877-880-5550** , or https://fcaa.saskatchewan.ca/apex/f?p=200:RUN:0:::PRUN_PROC_ID:12589&cs=17E037060D51B5ACC686E7CC6BF0E21D6 , or at the BBB at <https://www.bbb.org/consumer-complaints/> ⁶⁴. SK reminds farm suppliers to update their OHS guidelines with infection control measures and remind farmers to practice infection control during the upcoming farm season ⁶⁵.

SK reminds businesses/releases fact sheet to businesses to aid in COVID-19 workplace safety and employee protection <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/workplaces> ⁶⁸.

Apr 14, 2020



SK increases screening and masking requirements for SHA employees in health facilities starting Apr 15 that requires screening for influenza-like illness and temperature checks at the entrance points “twice daily”; all staff working with residents/patients or in resident/patient areas will require masking ⁶⁷.

Apr 15, 2020



SHA updates Visitor Restrictions in Continuing Care policy. Compassionate family care defined as “immediate family during end-of-life care, family of patients prior to a major surgery or visitors aiding in clinical care (at the discretion of the patient’s care provider).” and restrictions apply to family providing direct care support not provided by the care team, or cases where palliative care is provided and imminent death is expected. Compassionate visit restricted to 1 immediate family member (defined as spouse/common law, child/step, parent, grandparent, sibling, or a designated support person. Visitors must be logged and screened by questions on symptoms and with temperature. Out of province visitors allowed. No pets allowed. Visitations may be cancelled at the discretion of the facility or medical health officer. Hand hygiene will be enforced. Visitors to COVID 19 positive residents will be required to wear PPE, be trained by nursing staff how to safely don and doff PPE, visitations will be restricted to resident room, visitors will be directed directly to and be asked to leave directly immediately following the visit, and the visitor will be required to self isolate for 14 days after the visit. Homes are mandated to have a process in place to identify family members/support people permitted to visit. Alternate forms of contact, virtual visiting, are encouraged but not mandated to be put in place, equipment to be properly protected/disinfected/cleaned/maintained ⁷⁶.

Apr 16, 2020



Apr 17, 2020



SK lifts Spring road weight limits for heavy agricultural equipment to aid in delivery of agriculture products, promises to monitor for damage, and launches information site <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/transportation-and-road-construction/information-for-truckers-and-commercial-trucking-companies/regulations-and-road-restrictions/increased-weights-and-road-restrictions>⁶⁹. SK alters age range reporting categories of COVID 19 data to more align with national reporting. SK announces LTC home staff restrictions in effect Apr 28: One employee can be employed at only one home, unless otherwise approved due to staffing needs. Formalizes requirements for entry way screening of staff for symptoms/temperature. All LTC staff are required to wear masks in all facilities. All visitors permitted according to current restrictions must undergo screening. Symptomatic visitors to be turned away at door⁷⁰. SK announces provincial revenue decline of \$1.3 to 3.3 billion, and a GDP decline of 4.1 to 14.9% pending the pandemic trajectory. SK announces surplus in 2019 and had anticipated surplus in 2020⁷¹.

SK releases guidance for worship services for places of worship. Public health order maintains a restriction of 10 people in one space observing social distancing protocols. Drive in services – restrictions: no contact between vehicle groups, vehicle groups should consist of same-household members, space should be available by the place of worship for parking for 2 meter spaced vehicles, access to facilities is discouraged but not mandated, any access to facilities requires rigorous cleaning/infection control after each visitor, users of facilities should be able to maintain social distancing, mandate for no food or beverage, play areas are to be closed, unwell parishioners should be sent home or remain home, these rules should be able to be fully enforced by organizers, organizers should be able to answer questions and justify answers to public health agents

⁷².

Apr 18, 2020



SK announces additional precautions for fire safety/forest fire mitigation during COVID 19 including increased fire prevention awareness campaign and COVID 19 training for staff safety ⁸⁰. Province reminds people to compare their seasonal allergy symptoms (headache, runny eyes and nose and congestion) with those of COVID 19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulty) as seasonal allergy season begins and to utilize 811 for symptomatic assistance and medication advice ⁸¹. Premier addresses province and announces the emergency and public health measures have “reduced the spread” of COVID 19 and “successfully flattened the curve.” As of Apr 22, there have been 326 total confirmed cases of COVID 19, 261 reported recoveries, 61 active cases, and 4 deaths. SK COVID 19 cases are 70% below the Canadian per capita average, and the number of serious cases and deaths is 90% below the national average, the testing rate is 40% higher than the national average (21,895 tests per million compared to 15,155). SK announces a plan to reopen the province cautiously over the coming months to be released Apr 23 that will include stringent social distancing and infection control requirements for all businesses going forward. The largest and most dangerous outbreaks have been related to: travel, large gatherings, and continuing care homes. Testing and contact tracing will be keys to reopening safely ^{82 83}.

Apr 20, 2020



SK makes improvements and extensions to the AgriStability program related to financial uncertainty. An interim benefit allows early access to financial aid. People can apply **1-866-270-8450** or online at **www.scic.ca/agristability/how-to-apply** ⁷³. SK reminds the public as warm weather increases social distancing measures remain in place in outdoor and other spaces of gathering ⁷⁴. SK enacts The Wills (Public Emergencies) Regulations that allow remote witnessing of signed legal wills via video conference with the lawyer and a second witness. Remote witnessing also now applies to land titles and Power of Attorney documents as well ⁷⁵.

Apr 22, 2020



Apr 23, 2020

SK announces 5-phase plan beginning May 4 to “reopen Saskatchewan” safely by gradually lifting restrictions and keeping/introducing some public health measures. As weeks progress, businesses and services will be added to the allowable list. Social distancing and infection control measures will remain in place for all businesses and services reopened including proper PPE, intensive cleaning, hand hygiene, and access restrictions for symptomatic staff and patrons. The public is expected to follow current social distancing and self isolation health orders during this period. Older adults and the vulnerable are asked to exercise caution and minimize exposure. Those who can effectively work from home should continue to do so. Clear guidance to the public will be provided so they can continue to follow restrictions still in place and practice safe health behaviours.

The advancement from phase to phase and the lifting of restriction depend on some criteria: Health indicators and daily reported cases will be monitored for trends needing addressing; Transmission is controlled; Health system capacity are in place to test, isolate, and treat every case and trace all contacts; Outbreak risks are minimized in health facilities; Preventative measures are in place in work spaces, schools, and other settings reopened; Risks can be managed; Communities can be educated engaged and empowered to adjust to new norms.

Phase 1: Begins May 4. Reopening public access to medical services currently restricted (dentistry, physical therapy, optometry, opticians, podiatry, occupational therapy, chiropractic) with precautions in place for close contact services; resumption of low risk outdoor activities (golf with physical distancing rules – golfing opens May 15, fishing, boat launches, parks, campgrounds with some restrictions - camp reservations opens May 4 and camping and parks open June 1). For details on Phase 1 and service specific guidelines see <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/phases-of-re-open-saskatchewan/phase-one> .

Phase 2: Begins May 19. Reopening of select retail businesses and select personal services (hair, massage therapy, acupuncturists, acupressurists). Businesses will be required to adapt additional measures to prevent transmission, such as restrictions on touching/trying on merchandise and returning product, rearranging stores to allow for physical distancing. For the list of allowed businesses, business specific guidelines, and details on Phase 2 see <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/phases-of-re-open-saskatchewan/phase-two>

April 23 continued.

Phase 3: Date to be determined. Dependent upon an evaluation of transmission patterns. **Reopening of additional personal services, reopening of restaurant settings, fitness facilities, and closed childcare services.** Restaurants will be restricted to 50% capacity with safe social distancing and banned from providing buffet service. Recreation stations/rooms in restaurants are not allowed (dance floors, VLT's, pool tables, other leisure). Fitness centers are to enact stringent cleaning policies. Childcare spaces are limited to 15 children per building. **Childcare spaces connected to LTC have current restrictions remain in place.** The size of public and private gatherings allowed will increase to 15. For more details on Phase 3 see <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/phases-of-re-open-saskatchewan/phase-three> .

Phase 4: Date to be determined. Dependent upon an evaluation of transmission patterns. **Reopening of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities (swimming pools, casinos, bingo halls, sports and leisure centers, municipal parks and playgrounds, galleries, theatres). Reopening of all programmed leisure activities.** The size of public and private gatherings allowed will increase to 30. For more details on Phase 4 see <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/phases-of-re-open-saskatchewan/phase-four> .

Phase 5: **Consideration on lifting some “long term restrictions”, possibly in steps, possibly with continued limits on sizes of public gatherings. “Long Term Restrictions” are identified as the following: Maintaining the current Provincial State of Emergency; Recommendations against non-essential international and interprovincial travel; Mandatory 14-day self-isolation following international travel, exposure to COVID-19, or a positive COVID-19 test; Visitor restrictions limited to compassionate reasons at long-term care homes, hospitals, personal care homes and group homes; The suspension of classes in all primary and secondary educational institutions, both public and private; And large public gatherings remain prohibited.**

The Reopen Saskatchewan plan does not include resumption of elective surgeries, diagnostics, or other non-essential procedures; These will be addressed separately in the future.

April 23 continued.

SK launches Reopen Saskatchewan web page:

https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/~/link.aspx?_id=402D2D88BC4A4C52AFE1DC49B30ECFE1&_z=z

SK announces it will continue to increase testing and contact tracing as critical strategies going forward.

(End of Reopen Saskatchewan plan update) ^{83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90}

SK announces it will give consideration to relaxing restrictions in LTC and health facilities “so that residents aren’t isolated from their families” once “they feel it is safe to do so”. Regional differences in health care needs and transmission will require changes to the overall provincial approach going forward. SK provides a list of restrictions currently in place here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/restrictions> ⁹¹.

SK announces changes to the compassionate care visitations: Where it is determined that a resident of a LTC or special care home has needs unable to be met by the care team, two designated healthy individuals with one healthy family/support person can be permitted at a time. Visitors are not permitted in waiting rooms or common areas. Patient/residents are not permitted to leave the facility unless discharged. Personal items including food and beverage cannot be dropped off, however personal items including food and beverage can be brought in with visitors with permission. All community, spiritual, or other public gatherings are on hold in SHA facilities. SHA facilities are working to make phones and iPads more available for virtual visits ⁹².

The following changes are made for ICU, maternal, and pediatric visits: Visitors outside the parent/caregiver can be permitted at the discretion of the parent for compassionate reasons only. 2 immediate family/support people at a time are permitted at end of life. Public family/visitor rooms will remain closed. Visitors are asked to restrict the number of times they enter/exit the facility. Visitors visiting COVID 19 infected individuals will be restricted to the patient room and be required to self isolate if suspected infected. Food is permitted to be brought in to support the reduction of traffic outside the room. Facilities offering will still provide food services to visitors. Patients and families leaving the province for specialty services will be screened prior to returning to Saskatchewan and not required to self isolate but to self monitor pending no symptoms. Self isolation may occur in a patient room if both are infected, and if not possible accommodation should be offered. Facilities are required to have a process in place to identify the family member/visitors to be permitted. Virtual visitations are encouraged

April 23 continued.

NICU/special care nurseries, high acuity pediatrics units, acute care pediatric units permit 2 consistent (same) parent/support visitors aiding in patient critical care.

Antepartum Obs, Intrapartum Obs, and Postpartum Obs unit permit 1 consistent support/visitor. With the exception of antepartum obs, visitors must remain in the facility and is not permitted to exit/enter the unit. Washrooms, showers and meals are provided.

PICU units permit 1 consistent visitor. PICU visitors must remain in the facility and is not permitted to exit/enter the unit. Washrooms, showers and meals are provided ^{92 93}.

Apr 24, 2020

SK increases AgriStability interim payment benefit from 50% to 75% to support losses/cover costs ⁹⁴. SK clarifies rules on reopening of campgrounds ahead of phase 1 of the reopen plan. SK will stagger the reservation system starting May 4. Physical distancing will be required including on docks. Campsites will be open to 50% capacity to SK residents only to limit inter-provincial travel ⁹⁵. SK announces first SK outbreak of COVID 19 in LTC, in La Loche. SK initiates advanced infection control including limiting resident movement, enhanced cleaning schedule, additional PPE precautions. A portable GeneXpert testing unit was brought in to expand testing and turn around time. Additional PPE has been provided and PPE requested from the federal government. April 18 an advisory was given and expanded to include recommended non essential travel between north Alberta and north SK. A 4-language (English, Cree, Dene and Michif) radio broadcast is informing the population on regular updates. SK sent two emergency service officers of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to assist in local planning and local training. SK signs a public health order to limit travel into and out of Northern Saskatchewan Administration District and issues strong recommendations, not mandate, to limit travel within the district. SK establishes checkpoints at all entrances into Northern SK. These gates will be administered by northern leadership. SK offers fire suppression support staff. To meet self isolation challenges in the North, social housing via mobile work camp trailers will be set up ⁹⁶. SK introduces the concept of the “extended household group” which may consist of one or two close consistent families who, with extreme caution and consideration of chronic health needs, may be in contact. Recommendation is extended households do not visit additional family and friends every day, maintain social distancing where possible, and are still limited by mandate to 10 people per space, and to stay home when ill ⁹⁷.

Apr 25, 2020

SK links 7 new cases of COVID 19 to Northern outbreak. SK plans include increased testing and contact tracing in Northern SK ⁹⁸.

SK daily updates indicates that as of Apr 26, there have been a total of 353 cases of COVID 19 in SK (61 active), 4 deaths, 148 are linked to mass gatherings or contacts, 35 have no known exposure, 38 of cases are health care workers, 67 cases are in the 60-79 age range and 11 over 80 (The government updates these statistics daily at

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/cases-and-risk-of-covid-19-in-saskatchewan> and a graphical display of trends updated weekly is being recorded here

<https://www.westcentralonline.com/local/timeline-covid-19-cases-in-saskatchewan>. Only infrequent target audience specific snapshots will be posted to this timeline (in this case, a snapshot in time significant to older adults around the time of the first LTC outbreak in SK) ^{102 105}.

Apr 26, 2020

SK reports 5th death related to COVID 19, an adult in their 80s in northern SK, a community elder in La Loche ^{103 104}.

No information reported linking the death to LTC. SK clarifies rules of reporting mortality from COVID 19 and public reporting. Reports must be confirmed by a medical health officer before being recorded in epidemiology reports, then reported to public. SK links all 12 new daily cases to Northern SK. SK links the outbreak in Northern SK to contact at an oil sands camp in Northern Alberta ¹⁰³.

Apr 27, 2020

Apr 28, 2020



SK reminds hunters/fishers that licence application must proceed online due to COVID 19 at www.saskatchewanlicences.active.com¹⁰⁶. New SHA modeling shows Basic Reproductive Number of virus (R_0 number, the number that predicts the number of cases of infection that may proceed from a single case of COVID 19 without any interventions) is 3.12. The Effective Reproductive Number (R_e number, the number that predicts the number of cases of infection that may proceed from a single case with the current interventions) is 0.7 (subject to change daily). The Basic Reproductive Number will be used to inform planning scenarios including worst case scenario. The Effective Reproductive Number will be used to inform public health interventions. The SHA will report the Effective Reproductive Number weekly going forward. **New SHA readiness plan updates based on current assessment: Maximizing testing including outreach to populations least likely to get tested and increasing portable rapid testing modules, plans to increase capacity to be able to contact trace up to 618 cases per day, plans to restrict health staff to work in single facilities, contingency planning to cohort COVID 19 cases in hotels, plans to expand virtual services for medical appointments where possible. The new SHA modelling predicts we will need 1000 fewer hospital beds and 400 fewer ICU beds/ventilators than previously projected. SK updates province that continuation of elective surgeries/diagnostics will be phased in and dependent on priority of patient needs, risk of COVID 19 transmission, projected impact on resuming these services on COVID 19 surge capacity, impact of these services on supplies of PPE**¹⁰⁷.

Apr 29, 2020

SK links 11 of the daily 17 new cases of COVID 19 to Northern SK outbreak. SK reports 8th death linked to COVID 19, an adult over 80 in Northern SK. No indication if the death occurred in LTC or not. SK identifies an outbreak in a Lloydminster hospital and links 5 health care worker and 8 patient COVID 19 cases to the hospital. SK announces plans to potentially divert non-COVID care to another hospital in Lloydminster. SK reports several instances of unauthorized mass gatherings have occurred in SK, but have not announced any links to new cases to the gatherings ¹⁰⁸.

SK opens licenced daycare spaces in schools to those returning to work May 4. 2100 spaces remain reserved for health care workers. There are 47 school-based child care centres in SK and 350 other child care spaces operating in SK ¹¹⁰. SK reports 2 new cases in North SK and 2 in Lloydminster of the 6 new cases ¹¹¹.

Apr 30, 2020

SK announces \$1 million funding for province wide marketing to support local business in a buy local initiative, titled "Together we Stand" ¹¹². SK announces phase 1 of Reopen Saskatchewan plan will not proceed in La Loche and Lloydminster. SK updates its phase 1 web site (see Apr 23 of this timeline) to include new specific information about golf course operation, greenhouse operation, drive in church service, retail service, outdoor recreation, parks, campgrounds, and fishing ¹¹³. SK reports 26 new cases of COVID 19, with 20 new cases in Northern SK, 3 in Lloydminster. SK declares an outbreak in Prince Albert Victoria Hospital related to one case, contact tracing is ongoing. SK recommends the following for remote communities in particular, everyone in general: discontinuing carpooling where possible, covering cough sneezes in vehicles with elbow or shoulder, wearing masks in vehicles, limiting unnecessary travel, limiting passengers in vehicles, following physical distancing in and out of vehicles making use of community delivery services if ill. Communities without grocery stores should make bulk purchasing plans with members and work with regional partners to make critical travel between communities efficient ¹¹⁴.

May 1, 2020

May 2, 2020



SK reports a community outbreak in Beauval, contact tracing is ongoing¹¹⁵.

SK continues to report high numbers of infections in Northern SK, today at 33 of the daily reported 34 new cases.

These cases include presumptive reporting on May 2 and 3.¹¹⁵ SK

initiates phase 1 of the Reopen Saskatchewan plan except in La Loche and Lloydminster. SK announces mental health week, and points the public to the following COVID 19 specific mental health resources:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/mental-health-and-covid-19#mental-health>¹¹⁶. The page

outlines walk-in mental health services still available by community, and online and phone resources. The page also outlines addiction advice, advice on stress and anxiety, and harm reduction tips related to COVID 19 and substance use¹¹⁷. The Canadian federal government launches a similar mental health resource portal at

<https://ca.portal.gc.ca/> which includes a mental health wellness self assessment tool¹¹⁸.

May 4, 2020



May 5, 2020



SK declares this week Emergency Preparedness Week; residents encouraged to identify their risks and build emergency kits: water, non perishable food, medication, money, flashlights, identification, and insurance documents should be included. SK reminds people of the SaskAlert app and how it provides and region specific notifications ¹¹⁹. SK launches Play. Learn. Grow. Together! website that will provide parents tips to supplement learning at home for children during the pandemic:

www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/prek-12-education-early-learning-and-schools/early-years-learning ¹²⁰.

SHA launches four-phased resumption of services plan to begin May 19 to be adjusted based on outbreaks, surge capacity, availability of human and supply resources.

Pre Phase 1 (Current state): Surgeries limited to emergency and 3 week urgent cases. MRI at 50% normal capacity. CT at 55% normal capacity. Primary care clinics limited access, virtual services supported. Immunizations suspended (no info on the extent of suspensions). Mental health short stay closed. Mental health group activities halted. Limited home care, kidney health, rehabilitation and therapy. Limited access to specialty care (no info on extent of limits currently in place). Closure of social detox and addictions services.

Phase 1: To begin May 19. Surgeries expanded to 6 week urgent cases. Some examples include cataracts, hysterectomies, ear, and thorax. MRI and CT will increase to 75% normal capacity. Increased access in person to primary care clinics, priorities to those with chronic conditions. All routine immunizations will begin again. Public health inspections will increase in LTC, group homes. Mental health short stay to reopen, in person services to continue, allowing group session services under 10 people to continue for harm reduction programs. Gradual reintroduction of home care, kidney health, rehabilitation and therapy. Physical distancing and staggered appointments will be adopted.

Phase 2: Date to be determined. SHA to continue specialty care clinics with virtual care where possible. Includes: electrophysiology, cath lab, cardiac stress testing, heart monitoring, sleep disorder testing, respiratory outpatient, TB clinic, eye center testing, dermatology, cast clinics, increased fetal testing in high risk antenatal clinics.

May 5 continued:

Phase 3: Date to be determined. Prioritized resumption of the following other services: Chronic disease management/wellness programs/stroke prevention, opioid agonist therapy, specialized services for people with developmental disabilities/autism/brain injury, reopening of social detox and addictions inpatient treatment

Phase 4: Date to be determined. Full resumption of services including long waiting elective surgeries and hip/knee outpatient clinics.

SK updates the public that SHA has launched this plan, and regularly uploads updates to its COVID 19 pandemic response at

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/pandemic-planning>

^{121 122}.

May 6, 2020

SK announces \$2 billion increase in capital spending on infrastructure projects (to \$7.5 billion total) to stimulate the economy over 2 years. This includes new and renovation budgets of \$300 million for highways, \$200 million for health infrastructure, and \$135 million for education infrastructure. It is expected the new funding will provide 10,000 jobs. **One announced project is the construction of a 72-bed LTC facility in Meadow Lake** ¹²³. SK declares an outbreak at Meadow Lake Hospital with one confirmed case in a staff member linked to community transmission. Contact tracing is ongoing. No service interruption announced for Meadow Lake Hospital. SK amends the travel restriction in Northern SK to include Stony Rapids and La Ronge at in restricting non-essential travel at the request of local communities/public health ¹²⁴.

May 7, 2020

SK updates education plan. In-class learning will be suspended until at least September.

Graduation ceremonies will proceed virtually.¹²⁵ SK fast-tracks all installment payments of municipal revenue sharing to municipalities in one lump sum to aid in COVID 19 related issues¹²⁶. SK declares outbreak

in Lloydminster Hospital “stable” and allows Lloyd to proceed with Phase 1 of Reopen Saskatchewan plan May 11.

Phase 2 is delayed at this time pending local indicators and leadership¹²⁷. SHA will continue monitoring and is likely to not include the hospital in its Resumption of Service plan¹³⁴.

SK clarifies its reopen plan is not a health guidance document, and that those at greater risk such as older adults and those with chronic illness or the immunocompromised should be cautious when engaging in non-essential reopen activities. SK cautions people in extended households about sharing things and spaces and encourages social distancing even in extended households¹²⁷.

May 8, 2020

SK clarifies that it will declare an “outbreak” when a single case has been detected in an SK health (including LTC), corrections, shelter, or personal care home facility. SK will declare outbreaks in private industry on a case by case basis. SK will notify the public when there are risks to the community. SK updates the Reopen Saskatchewan document to include: guidance on use of PPE, guidelines for drive in or remote worship services, guidelines for drive in theatres, guidelines for public open markets, clothing, retail, thrift stores, pawn shops, golf courses, and rules for passengers in boats. SK announces that flowers from a florist and dry paper goods (cards, photos), books, artwork) are low risk for infection and can be sent to LTC and some acute care settings. Some locations will have limits related to allergies. Facilities and delivery services are reminded to practice infection control¹²⁸. SK adopts Pillars for Life: The Saskatchewan Suicide Prevention Plan which includes increased suicide protocols, and increased research, data and surveillance for local suicide prevention. Roots of Hope program has been adopted in La Ronge, Meadow Lake, and Buffalo Narrows. The plan also increases broader awareness and programs for youth and northern suicide prevention. More at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/saskatchewan-health-initiatives/suicide-prevention-plan>^{129 130}.

Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP) program through May for businesses required to curtail reopening on May 19¹³¹. SHA declares outbreak in Prince Albert Victoria Hospital over. SHA credits the diligent use of PPE and good environmental maintenance by teams¹³³.

May 9, 2020

SK announces the local government in consultation with community and indigenous leaders has ceased liquor sales in La Loche effective May 9. SHA will help identify and treat those with addiction or withdrawal health needs ¹³².

SK announces that the Lloydminster outbreak is “stable” and Lloydminster is clear to begin phase 2 of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan with the rest of the province on May 19 ¹³⁵.

May 11, 2020

May 12, 2020

SHA calls for end to stigmatizing those who test or test positive for COVID 19, as this marks the first time in SK that voluntary testing numbers have dropped. Door to door testing is underway in La Loche. SHA clarifies part of its addiction services up North since the closure of liquor sales is a moderated alcohol program modelled after the program available at The Lighthouse in Saskatoon. SHA clarifies that there is now a ban on all non-essential travel in Northern SK. The R number for La Loche (see April 28 for definition) is 2.13 while that number for the rest of SK is 0.75. The NDP party advocates for cost alleviation for prescription drugs for older adults and those with low income related to higher costs from restricting ordering supplies of drugs to 1 month’s supply at a time ¹³⁶.

SK approves amendments to The Election Act Regulations and gives Chief Electoral Officer authority to take necessary actions to ensure Oct 26 election is conducted safely during COVID 19, and delays Resort Village elections from July 25 to August 29 ¹³⁷. SK extends State of Emergency 2 additional weeks. SK residents reminded that even if regions experience low or no transmissions with testing, that COVID-19 is still present in the population and to maintain all current precautions ¹³⁸.

May 13, 2020

May 14, 2020



SK announces \$10 million in funding for livestock producers during COVID 19 market disruptions. The fund will cover the provincial portion of the AgriRecovery set-aside program with the additional portion being paid by the federal government, and will cover increased premium costs under the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program. SK announces of the expected 3500 processed cattle in Alberta plants per week, SK is only able to sell 400 to be processed due to COVID 19 per week ¹³⁹. SK announces it will expand testing access to employees of businesses operating during Re-Open Saskatchewan phases. SK announces pro-active testing of: all new admissions or in advance of admission to acute care hospitals for stays greater than 24 hrs including expectant mothers, immunocompromised asymptomatic individuals including cancer patients in advance of chemotherapy or other immunosuppressive therapy, all health staff working with immunocompromised populations, high volume work settings such as factories, those identified as having been in contact with someone with COVID 19, those identified at high risk due to active spread in their community or workplace, residents upon admission or re-admission to LTC, residents and staff in LTC upon confirmation of COVID 19 in a resident or staff member. SK announces increased testing in First Nations and Metis populations and the homeless and those in vulnerable living conditions. SK reminds people that public health orders remain in effect for the Victoria Day long weekend, and to continue to avoid public play spaces and practice infection control. Those with cabins up north will have restriction of access due to the travel ban. Those with cabins elsewhere should limit their activities to their own property and limit visits to local stores ¹⁴⁰. SK updates the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan allowing employees and owners of Northern SK outfitting operations to travel with some restrictions to begin planning for their season beginning May 15. SK allows for Phase 2 to proceed May 19 ¹⁴¹.

May 15, 2020



SK announces Saskatchewan Temporary Wage Supplement Program funded by the federal and provincial governments for lower wage workers working in essential care facilities and launches

www.saskatchewan.ca/wage-supplement-program for more information. The wage supplement is \$400 for each 4 weeks for eligible applicants for March 15 to July 4. Eligibility is earning less than \$24/hr under \$2500/mo in the 4 week eligibility period, for employees of LTC, personal and group care homes, child care facilities, shelters, and integrated healthcare facilities ^{142 143}.

SK improves readability of it's COVID-19 update hub website ¹⁴⁴.

SHA declares outbreak in Meadow Lake Hospital over, with all cases having been limited to one hospital staff member ¹⁴⁶.

SHA declares outbreak in La Loche Health Center LTC facility over. Community precautions remain in place due to community spread in the area ¹⁴⁵.



May 16, 2020

May 19, 2020



May 19, 2020

SK reminds people it is safe to handle mail according to the WHO and Canada Public Health Agency ahead of mailing out health card renewal stickers for the year ¹⁵⁰. SK reports the 7th COVID 19 related death, an adult in their 60's from Northern SK. SK reminds businesses reopening to follow guidelines and public health orders ¹⁵¹. SHA launches service resumption website where residents can check for services resumed in their areas and when at

<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/news/service-alerts-emergency-events/Pages/service-alerts-resumptions.aspx> and reminds people of changes in waiting room practice including distancing and screening. Physicians will contact individuals about surgeries and residents can contact

<http://sasksurgery.ca/patient/whotocall.html> for wait time information. SHA announces expanded testing begins May 25. **see list previously listed on this timeline on May 14** ¹⁵²

^{153 154}. SK government, SHA, and health union partners agree to a joint statement on protecting health and safety of workers, residents, and patients, mostly a PPE agreement. visible here as a PDF download

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/media/files/coronavirus/info-for-health-care-providers/ppe/joint-statement-principles-for-protecting-health-and-safety/joint-statement-principles-for-protecting-health-and-safety-with-signing-sheet-signed.pdf>

¹⁶⁰.

SK announces end to prescription filling limits on May 20 except for specific drugs that remain in short supply which will be dispensed at the discretion of the pharmacist (salbutamol inhalers, some antibiotics, some sedatives) ¹⁴⁷. SHA proceeds with Phase 1 of their resumption of health services plan (See May 5 for details). Not all services initially announced will begin immediately and not equitably across the province at the same time due to limitations posed by capacity, readiness for current physical distancing and infection control measures, or outbreak conditions. Phase 1 will also now include 6 week urgent and non emergent procedures and diagnostics where able. Those decisions will be made by physicians and surgeons based on assessments and recommendations ¹⁴⁸. SK amends the travel ban in Northern SK to just the North West region. A list of specific communities affected is updated here <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/may/19/covid-19-update-may-19>. SK proceeds with Phase 2 of the Re-open Saskatchewan plan (See April 23). SK reminds people to limit access to businesses to access as needed and to limit travel and abide by the public health orders and infection control recommendations, and to avoid loitering in or outside retail spaces. Seating in dining retail spaces is currently restricted ¹⁴⁹.

May 20, 2020

May 21, 2020

SK announces the Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP) in partnership with the federal government to accelerate the closure and inactivation of inactive oil wells and natural gas facilities and begin environmental cleanup work. The COVID 19 \$400 million economic stimulus initiative is expected to support 2100 full time jobs in the industry in downturn ¹⁵⁶. SK launches specific guidelines for worship services and phase 3 businesses at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/guidelines> which can be searched by industry/service. SK officially recommends the use of non medical masks to reduce asymptomatic spread, particularly in places where physical distancing is not possible or unpredictable including public transit, and provides the following advice: do not touch the mask and wash hands before or after adjusting it, do not share masks, remove the mask using only the fasteners/loops, wash after each use, do not use on children under 2. These guidelines in addition to other protocols such as physical distancing and hand washing, not replacing them ¹⁵⁷.

May 25, 2020

SK sets phase 3 of their re-open plan to begin June 8. Restaurants will be limited to 50% capacity. Gyms and child care facilities and places of worship as well as some personal services will be allowed to reopen under developing guidelines not yet released. Phase 3 will also see the public gathering size limit increase to 15 people indoors, 30 people outdoors. SK plans to consult faith leaders prior to developing guidelines for faith buildings. Commercial customers will be allowed to bring their recycling to SARCAN June 8 by appointment, and the general public will be allowed beginning June 15 ¹⁵⁵.

May 22, 2020

Expanded public testing **announced (and listed here) on May 14** is now available ¹⁵⁸.

May 26, 2020

SK announces two additional COVID 19 related deaths in Northern SK, and adult in their 80's and an adult in their 60's; the total is now 10 deaths. In an effort to bolster contact tracing, SK reminds people to remember who they have been in contact with for a period of two weeks at a time ¹⁶². **SHA declares community outbreak in Saskatoon linked to one positive and one presumptive case and indicates contact tracing is underway of more than 60 people but believes the outbreak is contained** ¹⁶³.

SK MLA's agree to reconvene the Legislative Assembly between June 15 and July 3, with only 10 SK Party members and 5 Opposition members in attendance at any one time to ensure social distancing. ¹⁵⁸. The budget is expected to be tabled June 15 and amended and approved by July 2. Other issues may be tabled in this time ¹⁵⁹. SK announces 8th COVID 19 related death, an adult in their 50's in Northern SK ¹⁶⁰. **SHA announces plans to convert previously-converted health facilities in rural SK designated for Alternate Level of Care patients to manage COVID-19 surge capacity back to full facilities including reopening their emergency departments beginning mid-June** ¹⁶¹.

May 27, 2020

May 28, 2020

SK announces new respite funding for up to 2800 eligible caregivers taking care of loved ones or those in group homes with intellectual disabilities during COVID 19 with closures of camps and services and volunteer opportunities. \$1.125 million total, no announced individual \$value. ¹⁶⁴. SK announces they will extend the Provincial State of Emergency 2 more weeks. SK announces the outbreak in Saskatoon due to 2 large family gatherings as a reason for it to be important to follow public health orders ¹⁶⁵.

May 29, 2020



SHA highlights Operation Lifeline as a means to donate and refurbish old mobile and tablet devices for use in LTC and in other health locations to help families stay in contact with loved ones. Donors can reach out at boltmobile.ca/operation-lifeline¹⁶⁶. SK announces updates to their guidelines for places of worship to reopen, updates to personal care services guidelines, guidelines for workplaces, and guidelines for restaurants. Details can continue to be found here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/guidelines>. SK announces plans to allow for more research activities on campuses with some limitations¹⁶⁷. SK announces ahead of campsites reopening June 1 with limitations, that automated check-ins will be implemented, and beaches, facilities, pools, and playgrounds will remain closed. Toilet access will be limited¹⁶⁸.

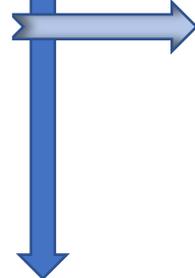
SHA ends outbreak at Lloydminster Hospital after 28th day after the onset of the first case¹⁶⁹.



May 30, 2020

SK announces 11th COVID 19 related death, an adult in Northern SK in their 70s¹⁷⁰. SHA announces an individual positive for COVID 19 may have been infectious in a North Battleford Walmart May 21 12pm to 2pm and issues a public health alert, asking individuals there at that time to self isolate and call 811 for testing and monitor for symptoms¹⁷¹.

May 31, 2020



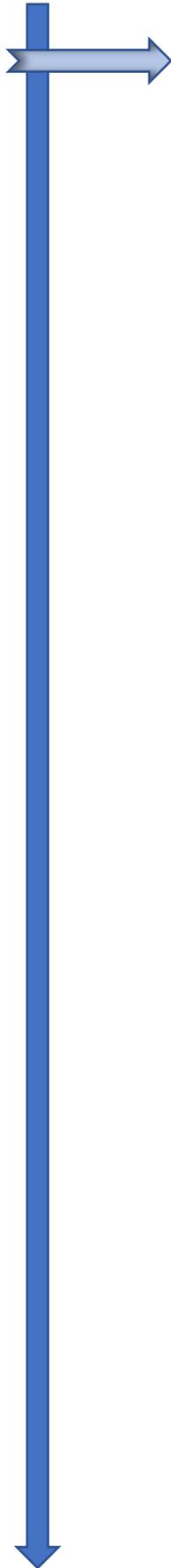
June 1, 2020

SK announces continues to expand testing to those announced on **May 14** and will be live with the expanded testing June 5¹⁷².

SK announces it will lift travel bans to Northwest Saskatchewan on June 8. Phase 1 and phase 2 of Re-Open Saskatchewan will be allowed to proceed in La Loche. For the North West, gathering sizes will be allowed to increase to 20 people outdoors with social distancing, and 10 people indoors with social distancing. Phase 3 of Re Open Saskatchewan may be delayed in North West Saskatchewan pending epidemiology reports¹⁷³. **SHA declares outbreak (declared May 1) in Beauval over citing no new evidence of transmission**¹⁷⁴.

June 2, 2020

June 3, 2020



SK releases public service announcement in midst of and ahead of public rallies being held and protests being organized for unions/Black Lives Matter/etc. Reminds people that: Large public gatherings increase risk of COVID 19 transmission. 40% of those infected with COVID 19 may be asymptomatic. Public rallies where individuals do not know one another make contact tracing difficult. Outbreaks have been linked to public gatherings in SK and globally. SK urges people to maintain 2 meters social distancing at all times. SK urges organizers to plan car rallies. Mask use and frequent hand hygiene is encouraged. SK urges people not to physically share items. SK urges those who are singing or chanting to maintain greater than 2 meter distance or to use banners or signs instead. SK urges people to consult the public gathering size orders, and to contact public health officers for guidance. SK reminds people to be aware of the risks, and the public health violations that may be enforced ¹⁷⁵.

To begin immediately, in intensive/critical care, “compassionate care” has been expanded so that one designated individual and one additional support person may be present at a time for care needs. Children and siblings are not currently permitted in maternal and pediatric health settings¹⁷⁸. Guidelines have been updated so that it is made clear that “inpatient, outpatient, emergency/urgent care patients who have specific challenges resulting in compromised comprehension, decision making or mobility due to disability or onset of a medical condition” may have one family member support person there to assist ¹⁷⁶.

In LTC, care needs definition now includes “quality of life” ¹⁷⁷. “A quality of life need describes immediate and essential needs that are beyond care needs, such as helping someone eat or get dressed... Though quality of life seems very broad, it is intended to acknowledge the psychological, emotional and social needs that may exist, and perhaps be difficult or impossible for staff to meet, but are critical for the health and well-being of residents.” Other considerations include: “Resident’s physical and/or mental health has been significantly declining; Residents who had frequent family presence prior to pandemic to meet needs; Residents who are not able to participate meaningfully in virtual visitation or outdoor visitation ¹⁷⁸.” In LTC, two healthy individuals can be designated to enter the facility per resident for care needs, one at any one time. Family presence in palliative care now allows for two family support people being present at a time. Decision tools have been developed to guide when a patient or resident in LTC can have a support person with them. Physical distancing is to be maintained as are screening, hand hygiene, and limited movement in the site. Masks will be provided and visitors asked to wear them. Facilities are also asking families to review the Family Presence Commitment document that will be made available upon their visit ¹⁷⁷.

June 3 continued...

It is expected that care homes find a way to ensure resident care needs and safe family presence. Homes are mandated to be transparent about their approach. Some suggestions for implementation include staggering visits, phasing in support visits unit by unit.

Community, foundation, volunteer, other public and spiritual gatherings are currently on hold in health facilities^{178, 185}.

The full decision aid for access inside health care facilities can be found at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/-/media/files/coronavirus/info-for-health-care-providers/general-information-for-health-care-providers/visitor-restrictions-at-health-care-facilities/covid-19-family-presence-guidance.pdf>¹⁸⁰.

A frequently asked questions document about family presence that is separated by facility type is found at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/-/media/files/coronavirus/visiting-sha-facilities/family-presence-during-covid-19-faqs.pdf>¹⁸¹. The link for the SHA commitment to family presence is found at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/-/media/files/coronavirus/info-for-health-care-providers/general-information-for-health-care-providers/visitor-restrictions-at-health-care-facilities/sha-family-presence-committment.pdf>¹⁸². A family presence during COVID 19 poster is found at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/-/media/files/coronavirus/info-for-health-care-providers/general-information-for-health-care-providers/visitor-restrictions-at-health-care-facilities/updated-family-presence-guidelines-poster.pdf>¹⁸³.

For first nations people, a healer or elder is considered part of the care team separate from a designated family member. Access to a Healing Center is possible provided they can maintain physical distancing. A representative from First Nations and Metis Health Services is part of the family presence support team and can be emailed for considerations pfcc@saskhealthauthority.ca¹⁸⁰.

SK releases a poster guiding the items that can be brought into facilities. It can be found here <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/-/media/files/coronavirus/info-for-health-care-providers/general-information-for-health-care-providers/visitor-restrictions-at-health-care-facilities/visitor-items-updated-poster.pdf>. Items include food from licenced facilities in wipeable packages, flowers, paper gifts, art supplies, books, and animal services^{184, 185}. Update: food from a residential kitchen is allowed if packaging able to be wiped down (update date?)¹⁸⁰.

June 3 continued...

SK announces outdoor visits in LTC homes. Full implementation is expected over the coming week. Outdoor visits allow for more than one visitor at a time. Visits should be scheduled in advance. Screening is necessary and can be done in advance. Family are asked to physically distance except members from the same household. Masks are encouraged but are not required unless physical distancing is difficult in which case masks and hand hygiene are required. Residents are asked not to leave the facility unless discharged ¹⁸⁰.

An outdoor visitation poster (physical distancing poster) has been updated here <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/-/media/files/coronavirus/info-for-health-care-providers/general-information-for-health-care-providers/visitor-restrictions-at-health-care-facilities/outdoor-visitation-poster.pdf> ¹⁸⁶. An outdoor visits frequently asked questions document has been updated here <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/-/media/files/coronavirus/visiting-sha-facilities/outdoor-visits-faqs-for-loved-ones.pdf> ¹⁸⁷.

Outbreaks in the community or home may affect all visitations ¹⁸⁰.

*NOTE: some of these policy captures may be from an update June 9, and 18. I was unable to secure the documents June 3. I will subsequently try to capture each new update in the dates between June 3 and June 18 below where possible.

June 4, 2020

SK announces access to school-based child care facilities for employees returning to work in phase 3, and child care up to 15 children per space. Spaces must cohort children and playthings. SK updates its guidelines for fitness facilities, parks, campgrounds, and public health orders section. Phase 4 reopening will be staggered. Seasonal and recreational outdoor activities (pools, youth day camps) will roll out first followed by indoor (pools, rinks, libraries, museums, theatres, bingo, casinos). SK announces it continues to work on guides for reopening beaches, places of worship, and playgrounds ¹⁸⁸. The Saskatchewan Temporary Wage Supplement Program is expanded to include anyone regardless of wage level who works in LTC facilities, and those at assisted living facilities earning under \$24/hr in 4 weeks or less than \$2500 gross, private day care employees, and private services employees ¹⁸⁹.

June 5, 2020



SK announces temporary moratorium on evictions of commercial tenants during COVID 19 for those eligible for Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) but chose not to apply, under section 18 of The Emergency Planning Act. CERCA program helps reduce rent. Some landlords chose not to pay it instead. SK encourages tenants to apply for CERCA and will work with federal government to expand CERCA eligibility. CERCA was in effect May 27 and eligibility includes having lost 70% of revenue. Rent would be reduced 75%. In turn landlords get 50% loans that would be forgiven if they complied with the program ¹⁹⁰. SK announces SK unemployment rate is 12.5%, less than the national 13.7%. Employment has declined 13% from February; 87% of those who had jobs in February are still working. Total hours worked declined 9.1% where the national value is 19.3%. There were 600 more jobs in May than April ¹⁹¹. SK amends the The Mineral Tenure Registry Regulations Act to provide relief for mines during COVID 19 which include changes to expenditure periods for mining allowing them to hold on to dispositions for longer periods ¹⁹². **SK releases report on LTC in SK in 2019 which highlights aging facilities not meeting current standards of care or pandemic care such as 4 bed per room facilities and shared bathroom facilities like some in Regina, difficulties in staffing, hiring and retaining nurses, food service concerns such as small portions or undercooked items, and funding difficulties. Some goals going forward include possibly retaining the requirement to cohort staff to one home and increase full time positions, replacing aging infrastructure. Overall resident satisfaction decreased from 88% to 85%. The CEO report can be found here** <https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubask-prod/118147/2019-CEO-LTC-Tour-Results.pdf> and the resident family experience survey can be found here <https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubask-prod/112386/2018-19%252BLong-Term%252BCare%252BResident%252Band%252BFamily%252BSurvey%252BResults.pdf> ¹⁹³,

¹⁹⁴, ¹⁹⁵, ¹⁹⁶

June 8, 2020



SK begins phase 3 of reopen plan (See April 23). Limits on public gatherings has been increased to 15 indoors and 30 outdoors. Outdoors playground and beaches and associated washrooms can be opened June 12. Physical distancing, frequent handwashing are encouraged, and enhanced disinfecting and cleaning of washrooms and rented equipment will be mandated. SK announces travel restrictions to Northwest SK have been lifted. La Loche can proceed to Phase 2 of the reopen plan. The SHA announces it will soon reopen 8 of 12 shuttered rural emergency rooms temporarily closed in COVID 19 measures: Kerrobert June 12, Leader and Arcola June 16, Preeceville June 18, Biggar and Oxbow June 22, Davidson June 24, Herbert June 25. Public Health Agency of Canada updates SK on two return flights with confirmed cases of COVID 19. Details on flights, cruise ships, trains with confirmed cases are posted here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice/exposure-flights-cruise-ships-mass-gatherings.html> ^{197, 198}.

SK announces plans to reopen pre-kindergarten to grade 12 schools in Fall 2020. The public health guidelines will be released shortly in concert with public health and the ministry of education through an Education Response Planning Team consisting of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials and the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents, and school divisions. An in-class plan and a contingency plan will be developed ¹⁹⁹.

June 9, 2020



June 10, 2020



SHA announces June 16 it will proceed with phased reopening with increase in surgical and medical imaging services. Regina and Saskatoon are currently at 50% of their pre-COVID capacity. This phase will increase capacity to 65-70% with inclusion of some elective procedures. Medical imaging is currently 83% capacity. Medical imaging will resume to 90% pre-COVID capacity. SHA announces resumption of sleep disorder testing, cardiac stress testing, eye centre testing and operations, and additional cast clinics. SHA announces 122,000 Virtual care appointments have been successfully given since the pandemic start²⁰⁰.

SK announces plans to incrementally increase gathering sizes in places of worship and for graduation ceremonies. Places of worship can now 1/3 of capacity or 150 people whichever is lower, including for ceremonies. Social distancing still required. SK offers suggestions for grad ceremonies: virtual services, drive in services, outdoor services up to 150 people so long as all other public health measures can be enforced²⁰¹. SHA announces health advisory for Clearwater River Dene Nation after 2 confirmed cases linked to a wake on June 10 and funeral June 11, and asks attendees to self isolate 14 days and monitor symptoms and call 811 as they continue to contact trace²⁰².

June 11, 2020



June 12, 2020



After weeks of small numbers of new cases, SK announces 18 new cases of COVID 19. 13 are in Northern SK connected to the wake/funeral on June 10/11. SK reiterates important of physical distancing at gatherings and the importance of self isolation and monitoring ²⁰⁸.

SK releases 2020 budget.

Estimated COVID 19 specific social services costs - \$6.4 million, including \$1.1 million in \$100/mo for 4 mo respite response to reduced respite options in COVID 19; \$2 million for \$50 increases to SIS, SAID, SAP and TEA for COVID expenses; \$1.3 million for \$300 one time June payment for family based care providers. \$171,000 to address shelter needs during COVID 19; \$1.7 million to prepare spaces in children entering care to minimize spread; \$145,000 to delay youth aging out of care transition during COVID 19 ²¹⁰.

SK announces the following changes to the reopen phase 4 plan. To clear up a misperception on timeline, outdoor sporting activities with training periods cannot begin training until their prospective phase 4 begins. Wedding receptions are not included in the expanded places of worship guidelines, and food cannot be served at the wedding or reception in the guidelines. Province expands State of Emergency until June 24. SK provides some gathering suggestions: Small infrequent gatherings better than large, Outdoor gatherings are better than indoor. Guests should provide their own food in gatherings. Food should be plated by only 1 person. Don't share food/drink. Meeting with the same consistent group is better than meeting with many. Track who you are in contact with over 2 week periods ²⁰³. **SHA announces Kerrobert resumes ER services** ²⁰⁴. SHA sees a 60% increase in demand for testing since expanding testing, 20% coming from those now working outside the home. Testing takes little time, there is limited contact with other individuals, PPE is provided. SHA encourages people to not be afraid to get tested ²⁰⁵. Family presence guideline updated for maternal visits. 2 designated consistent support persons are now allowed during birthing experiences. Screening, masking, hand hygiene, distancing required. Swab testing will be offered to all maternal patients but not their guests ²⁰⁶. SK NDP opposition calls into investigation to SK LTC by ombudsman into LTC longstanding issues: understaffing, vacancies, quality of care ²⁰⁷.

June 15, 2020



June 15 continued:

Estimated COVID specific education costs – additional economic stimulus spending of \$136.3 million capital projects spending over 2 years ²¹¹.

Estimated COVID specific capital investments costs – additional \$2 billion to the capital plan to stimulate the economy post COVID 19. \$54 million additional on highways as part of the economic stimulus. \$150 million economic stimulus spending through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program ²⁰⁹.

SK predicts a \$2.4 billion dollar deficit related specifically to COVID 19 and anticipates recovery period will not require additional cuts to programs and services in the coming years. \$1.2 billion is through loss of revenue from economic closures during COVID 19. \$1 billion was dedicated to pandemic spending including health, individual, and economic measures including \$700 million dedicated for the upcoming response. \$200 million health and safety contingency funding was established.

Some programs include: “\$171 million of new capital funding for third parties, including \$150 million for the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program for shovel-ready infrastructure projects; \$150 million for the Accelerated Site Closure Program for the reclamation of inactive oil and gas wells and facilities; \$56 million for the Temporary Wage Supplement supporting those workers who are helping some of our most vulnerable in our province through the pandemic; \$50 million for the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment providing support to small and medium-sized businesses that have had to temporarily close or significantly curtail operations because of the COVID-19 pandemic; \$50 million in emergency pandemic support for First Nations and Métis organizations and community-based organizations to help offset an \$81 million reduction in gaming grant payments resulting from the closure of casinos; 3 million for Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance, providing forgivable loans to commercial property owners to assist with rent owing by small businesses experiencing hardship during the pandemic; and \$12 million of other measures, including support for livestock producers, enhancements to the corrections and justice systems and the Self-Isolation Support Program; Further, \$205 million will be directed to government-owned capital assets such as schools, hospitals and highways, in addition to the original capital plan. When combined



June 15 continued:

with the \$171 million increase in expense for third-party capital, a total of \$376 million is provided for the first year of a two-year, \$2.0 billion capital stimulus package.”

\$118 million is expected for hospital equipment, testing equipment, PPE, and pandemic operating costs.

\$148 million of repurposed money comes from current agencies and ministries to address COVID 19 needs.

An additional \$675 million in PST/utility/education property tax/student loan deferrals are also expected at this time ²¹².

Estimated COVID specific agriculture costs - \$5 million for the national AgriRecovery set-aside program and \$5 million to partially offset higher premium costs under Western Livestock Price Insurance Program ²¹³.

\$186 million of the provincial government was targeted to first nations communities some of which will support recovery from the pandemic. A \$45 million one time grant will go to offset the revenue losses from closed casinos for various indigenous organizations. \$370,000 in funding was provided through the New North to cover costs of community education and enforcement from COVID 19 ²¹⁴.

SK budget provides \$400,000 to SK labs working on a COVID 19 vaccine. Innovation Saskatchewan also provided \$3.8 million to develop a vaccine, and will provide additional funding to developing a facility to manufacture the vaccine ²¹⁵.

SHA updates that the plan to resume full ER services in Leader will not continue as job positions for some of the roles of Lab/X Ray technicians are currently unfilled. Residents are directed to Kindersley, Maple Creep, or Swift Current in this community for the time being ²¹⁶.



June 16, 2020



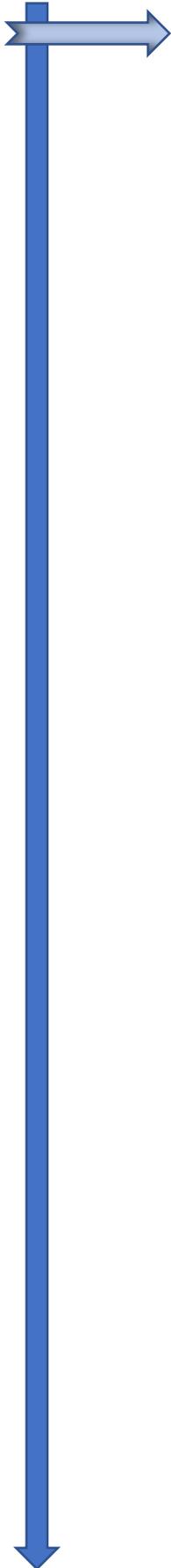
SK updates the guidelines to places of worship for weddings and funerals to indicate: Gatherings up to 30% of capacity or 150 people (or less) to be made up groups of 30 separated by 5 meters, and socially distanced within unless part of the same household. No food or beverage service allowed within the services. Physical distancing is required for all indoor and outdoor gatherings and capacity of gatherings should be limited by the physical distancing requirements; to a maximum of 30 people ²²⁰. **SHA declares an outbreak in two Hutterite communities in the RM of Maple Creek. 16 cases are confirmed positive so far. Contact tracing connects the cases to Alberta as well as local residents. SHA investigation is underway and SHA is reminding people to self monitor for symptoms in the area ²²¹.**

SK announces \$80 million in additional LTC investment including \$73 million to build LTC facilities in Grenfell and La Ronge and \$7.2 million for priority renewal projects (heating, air, sewer, flooring, window, etc) in other LTC facilities to come from the \$7.5 billion (\$200 million health dedicated) capital projects fund. This funding is in addition to the dedicated \$24 million grant for life/safety and emergency infrastructure for LTC. **This fund doesn't appear to have a direct link to COVID 19 but is important for LTC at an important time ²¹⁷. SK announces reopen SK phase 4 part 1 is scheduled for June 22. Some municipalities may opt to keep some facilities closed. Effective June 22, indoor gatherings of 30 people are permitted where physical distancing is possible. Buffet and shared food service and potlucks are discouraged ²¹⁸. **SHA announces resumption of ER services at Arcola** ²¹⁹.**

June 17, 2020



June 18, 2020



SK announces a \$2 million temporary training program to help businesses to train employees to enhance safety protocols to safe re-opening called the Re-Open Saskatchewan Training Subsidy, up to 100% of training up to \$10,000 per business. Application deadline is July 31. More info at www.saskatchewan.ca/training-subsidy or phoning 306-964-1005 (Saskatoon) or 306-787-4677 (Regina).

SK releases guidelines for pre-kindergarten to grade 12 to reopen in September. Parents and caregivers will be asked to monitor symptoms in their children which can appear milder and flu-like. Ill children and staff will be asked to remain home. Guidelines include: minimizing physical contact in younger children instead of physical distancing, Kids will be encouraged to bring hand sanitizer. Soap and water washing will be required when hands are dirty and sanitizer provided when not visible, supervised for younger children. Masks and eye protection not required. Physically distanced games will be explored. Modified entrance and exit strategies will be explored such as staggered start times and separate entrances and limited drop offs to one parent. Breaks and recesses will be staggered. Rooms will be modified to promote distancing. Staff will be assigned and stay with groups of students through the day and staff/student group mix avoided as much as possible. School divisions will be asked to use video conference to meet with parents where possible. Protocols will be established for bringing items in and out of schools. Students and staff will be asked not to share food, drink, personal items. Limits will be placed on touch points of electronic devices. Toys and equipment will be limited that is shared or cannot be easily disinfected. Plans for extra curricular activities will be developed closer to the school season as gathering sizes are considered. Disinfectant wipes will be made available. Plans will be in place to limit mingling in washrooms. Enhanced cleaning and staff training in infection control and cleaning/maintenance schedules are recommended. Proper glove use should be used in any activity involving bodily fluid. Schools must be well stocked in sanitation supplies. Screening, temperatures, and routine testing of children are not required. Illness management policies for COVID 19 will be developed by school divisions. Staff needing to stay home because of illness would not be required to come in to create plans for subs. Students and staff confirmed with COVID 19 will be allowed in only when cleared by public health. Schools should develop isolation spaces for students suspected ill with COVID 19 until they can be picked up. Masks and eye protection must be used by staff interacting with ill children suspected of COVID 19, clean areas after those students leave, quarantine items not easily cleaned for 3 days. Contact with respiratory secretions is not advised. Proper hand hygiene will be used before and after periods of eating. Students should eat lunches in their classrooms. Food should not be shared. Utensils used should be washed. Food preparation by students is not allowed. Supports for student/staff health and wellness will be

June 18 continued....

provided. Trauma informed practice will be utilized to support students, staff, and families including inclusiveness, compassion, supporting independence, coping strategies, minimizing stress. Personal interactions there should be consideration for environments that promote safe interaction. All health and safety measures must be in place and communicated to staff and students before provision of service. Additional precautions may be considered with individuals with compromised immune systems. It may not be possible to support all student needs due to enforcing safety guidelines. In busses, students should be assigned seats, seating arrangements tracked for tracing purposes, and family members of the same house should be seated together. Driver partitions should be considered. Sanitation between unloading and loading busses is required. Recreational field trips are not allowed at this time. Parents will be asked to transport their own children where possible. Pick up and drop off should occur outside the building. Parents are not encouraged to enter the school but if they do they should maintain physical distancing and practice hygiene ^{223, 224}.

SHA announces resumption of ER services in Preeceville ²²⁵.

June 18, 2020

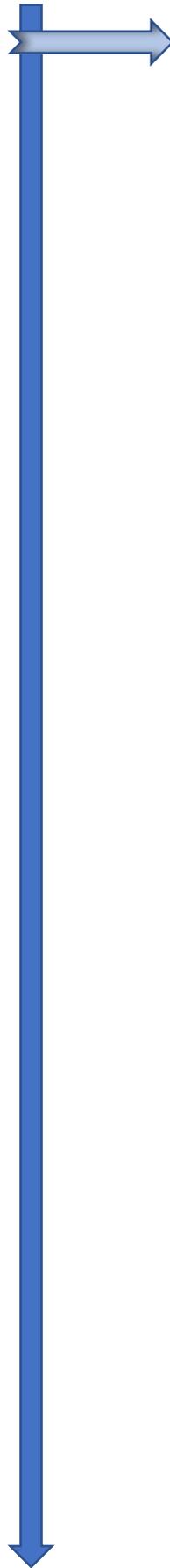


SK reports on decline in retail sales due to COVID 19. SK saw a decline in sales of 23.7%, compared to 32.5% which is the national average. 63% of businesses remained fully opened. 66.2% of businesses were able to keep their employees. 7.6% of businesses laid off 100% of their employees, least among the provinces ²²⁶.

June 21, 2020

After several days of low infection rates reported, SK reports 20 new cases of COVID 19. 18 of the new cases are in the South region ²²⁷.

June 22, 2020



SHA declares community outbreak linked to large gathering in Saskatoon declared May 27 over ²²⁸. **SHA resumes ER services in Oxbow and Biggar** ^{229 230}. Hutterian Safety Council and SHA release joint statement on working collaboratively to guide the Hutterite colonies through the pandemic. The HSC has been working to produce community specific guidelines to reduce gathering sizes, allow physical distancing, implement hygiene practices many of which are posted **www.hutteritehealth.com/bulletins** . In the spirit of openness and to combat stigma the HSC has openly recognized some difficulties in implementing adequate COVID 19 protocols and abiding by public health orders in some communities, as many communities consider themselves isolated and thus insulated. HSC recognizes this false sense of security. Some colonies resisted testing fearing economic shutdown of their communities and their linkages with the greater SK economy and supply chains. The SHA and HSC are working together to facilitate communication to and collaboration with the colonies to allay fears. The HSC would like to thank their communities implementing changes. SHA thanks the Maple Creek communities. HSC and SHA want to recognize the damage stigma does to communities and to individuals and wants to work together to combat it in the spirit of unity, kindness, generosity ²³¹. SK announces The Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, which schedules trades exams, to resume, with proper safety and physical distancing measures in place. Technical practical training to follow. Theoretical training will be online ²³².

SK releases virtual service stats during COVID 19. Between Mar 13 and June 15, 370,000 virtual consults were made, 19% of residents used the services.

PEXIP is the secure digital video platform used. 122,000 consults were by video. 811 has responded to 53,000 COVID related calls, the online self-assessment tool has had 1 million views. The COVID 19 web page has been viewed 13 million times. Ministry of Health has responded to 9300 emails sent to the COVID 19 address. 2500 emails have been sent about donations, supplies, and innovations. The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency has received 13,000 calls, 1700 about enforcement. The business response team responded to 12,900 communications ²³³. Reopen

Saskatchewan phase four part 2 will allow galleries, libraries, and theatres to open June 29. June 26, Campsites can open to 100% capacity. Access to facilities can resume but frequent cleanings must occur. Sports and outdoor recreation can now resume provided physical distancing can be maintained. Min leagues can be formed in full contact sports to allow teams to safely return to playing. Non medical masks must be used by staff in gyms and restaurants and personal services where physical distancing is not possible by staff. It is recommended all older at risk staff wear masks. Locker rooms, showers, change rooms are allowed open and change rooms in clothing retail can open to 100% capacity, all with increased disinfection ²³⁴. With increased gathering size, extended households have only increased to 15 (distancing not required) ²³⁵.



June 23, 2020

June 24, 2020

SHA announces resumption of ER services in Davidson²³⁶.

SHA announces resumption of ER services in Herbert²³⁷. Government of Canada announces support for LTC sector and floats the following strategies: national standards in LTC, federal funding of LTC, changing the Canada Health Act to include LTC²⁴².

June 25, 2020

SK announces Royal Saskatchewan Museum will need a little more time to re-open as they implement new safety protocols. T.rex Discovery Centre in Eastend will not reopen in 2020²³⁸. Medical supply company Benchmark PPE will establish operations in SK to manufacture PPE and 3-ply masks and N95 masks. The Saskatchewan Research Council provided quality assurance. The facility will hire 30 employees and produce 5 million masks per month. This will help to prevent interruption of critical supply chains²³⁹. Nightly, group, double and equestrian campsites are now open in SK to full capacity. Laundry facilities and shared cookhouses will remain closed. Booking will continue online to avoid unnecessary contact. Campers are asked to bring hand sanitizer and wipes and distance from other campers and to stay home if ill²⁴⁰. SK reports 13 new cases of COVID 19, 10 in the South connected to the Maple Creek outbreak²⁴¹.

June 26, 2020

SHA announces outbreak of COVID at Sunnyside Bar in Emma Lake and exposure to public between June 26 – June 28. The public is asked to monitor for symptoms and report them²⁴³. SK further extends the period of youth transitioning out of social care to January 5, 2021. The extended supports apply to approximately 180 youth at a cost of \$1.5 million to extend the program²⁴⁴.

June 29, 2020

June 30, 2020



SK announces a \$319 million deficit from 2019-2020 partially related to the COVID 19 response globally ²⁴⁵. SK announces beginning July 6, indoor sporting activities and performing arts may resume. Seating capacity in indoor restaurants can increase to where patrons can maintain 2 meter social distancing. On July 9, casinos and bingo halls may reopen. Racetracks and rodeos are slated to resume July 16. VLT's, pool tables, darts, arcades may resume July 6 if physical distancing can be maintained with increased disinfection. Live entertainment can continue July 16. Guidelines are released at <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/105097/formats/119495/download> ²⁴⁶, ²⁴⁷. SK encourages people to celebrate Canada Day virtually this year. SK posts Canada Day virtual activities and arts at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/canada-day-celebration> ²⁴⁸. Many public celebrations have been cancelled ²⁴⁹. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and Pike Lake Provincial Park are to open their outdoor pools July 1. Pool capacity will be reduced. A turnover period will be implemented where users are assigned a set block of time and cleaning will proceed between blocks. There will be no swimming programming offered. Barriers will be used and physical distancing enforced. There will be entry and exit signage. Users will be encouraged to enter and exit the pool already in swimwear and not use the changerooms if possible ²⁵⁰. SK announces it will no longer be reporting COVID 19 updates on weekends or stat holidays but will post weekend updates on Mondays. Public health inquiries will still be posted as received ²⁵¹.

SHA announces resumption of ER services in Leader ²⁵².



July 1, 2020



July 2, 2020



SHA and Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority rescind their non essential travel advisory to Northern Alberta issued April 18. Alberta has declared their outbreak in the region over. They remind travellers to take public health precautions when travelling to other regions ²⁵³. SK reports 15th COVID related death in SK, an adult in their 70's from Northern SK. SK reports 10 new cases of COVID 19 from July 1 and 2 ²⁵⁴.

SK announces it will amend the institutional visitation guidelines including LTC starting July 7. The new guidelines are meant to standardize guidelines across most settings. They include: Two support people can be identified per patient, one present in a facility at a time. Two can be present at a time with proper physical distancing for ICU, CCU, palliative end of life care, maternal and pediatric units. Masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene, screening at the door, and limited movement in the facility will be enforced. Additional family member or support people can be identified at end of life, palliative, and ICU patients ^{255, 256, 257}. Some select key points of the revised document include: "If phasing in family presence, prioritize residents who had a family member/support person who regularly assisted with care or quality of life needs before pandemic, residents who are not able to be with their families or support people through outdoor or digital visitation, and those residents whose physical and/or mental health has significantly declined since the start of the pandemic," and "be transparent about their approach to family presence with residents, patients, and family members/support people," and "Prioritize indoor family presence if not able to support both long term care outdoor visitation and indoor family presence" and "create approaches to continually review and enhance family presence in homes and facilities as outlined through the current public health order and SHA Family Presence Guidelines ²⁵⁶."



July 3, 2020

July 6, 2020



SK announces it will be lifting restrictions on evictions starting Aug 4 and accepting eviction requests by email and mail (no in-person service) for the reason of non payment of rent only. It encourages landlords and renters to communicate to reach mutual agreements during the challenges of the pandemic ²⁵⁸. SK announces it will be increasing VLT and gaming commissions for 15-25% to restaurants and bars starting July 6 – January 3, 2021 and VLT's begin July 6 to offset revenues lost in these venues due to the pandemic. New cleaning protocols and physical distancing requirements are in effect for VLTs ²⁵⁹.

SK reports 15th COVID related death, an adult in their 20's from Northern SK. SK begins expanded visitation guidelines (see July 3) ²⁶⁰. SHA updates on Maple Creek outbreak. Contact tracing and testing has been successful. Testing is ongoing in the communities. Residents are reminded to follow public health orders and recommendations. Symptomatic people are asked to self isolate and call 811 ²⁶¹.

July 7, 2020



SHA reports an increase cluster of cases in Prince Albert area. It reminds residents to follow public health measures and personal safety precautions: physical distancing, hand hygiene, self isolation and testing if ill. Visitor restrictions are in place for Victoria Hospital and all LTC facilities in Prince Albert. Restrictions are for compassionate reasons, a designated family member only. Screening will be done at the door. Hand hygiene, masking required. Those with respiratory, gastric, or flu-like symptoms or those travelling out of Canada in 14 days will be denied visits. Virtual visits are encouraged at this time ²⁶². SHA reports possible COVID transmission in Lloydminster between June 27 and July 5 and cautions visitors at Wal-Mart, Superstore, Goodknight Inn, and Superlodge Motel monitor symptoms and self isolate/test if ill ²⁶³.

July 8, 2020



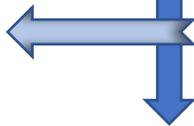
July 9, 2020



SHA reports COVID case affecting a restaurant and advises visitors at Canadian Brewhouse Stonebridge between July 1 – 3 monitor for symptoms and self isolate/test if ill²⁶⁴.

SK announces re-open phase 4 plans for temporary food vendors, races and rodeos, banquet and conference facilities, car and trade shows and releases guidelines for each. SK is now working on guidelines for door-to-door sales, garage sales, and donations of used items. Seating areas are now permitted at drive in theatres, public, and farmer markets so long as physical distancing can be maintained. Only members of the same group should be seated together. Live performances in restaurants and outdoor markets can be allowed July 16. Physical distancing will be required and depending on instruments greater distances may be needed. Dance floors and karaoke remain closed. For guidelines [see link July 3](#). SK reminds people: Washroom access at campsites are restricted to one household at a time and use of camper/trailer washrooms is encouraged. Members of different households must physically distance on beaches, in water, in camp areas with 4 meters distancing between groups of households. Towels, beach equipment, and food should not be shared between groups. If beaches are full, adjacent grass area should be used with distancing²⁶⁵.

SK states that SK crowns offered a number of COVID specific interventions during the pandemic: The Crown Utility Interest Waiver Program, providing a payment deferral/interest waiver, no data overage charges for people conducting school and work from home, and payment plans, as well as donations to charities²⁶⁶. SK reports its re-open plan saw the creation/return of 30,300 or 6% of jobs in SK in June and is now at 92.6% of its pre-covid job levels ahead of the national average of 90.8%. June unemployment was 11.6%, the national average was 12.3%²⁶⁷. SHA reminds public of case increases in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Lloydminster, and Southwest SK and to remain vigilant during the pandemic and practice public health measures such as physical distancing, increased hygiene, limiting gathering sizes, self isolating and testing when ill²⁶⁸.



July 10, 2020

July 13, 2020



SHA will increase services in phase 3 of their reopening (**see May 5 of this timeline**). This includes restoration of social detox and addictions inpatient treatment. Chronic disease management/wellness program/stroke prevention, specialized services for autism, services for acquired brain injuries set to resume. Surgical services will increase to 75-85% pre-COVID capacity (average). Medical imaging will increase to 90% pre-COVID capacity (average). SK updates that 175,000 virtual physician consults have been done since COVID 19 March health measures. SK announces beginning July 14, universal COVID testing goes live and anyone in SK can now be tested by request. Referrals to testing can be done calling 811. SHA labs are currently processing 600 tests per day with capacity of 1800 per day. Testing will be triaged. SK posts this video showing testing process: <https://youtu.be/-oPEEbE4mQU>²⁶⁹. SK reports a significant increase in COVID 19 infections, 31 new cases over the weekend, 27 of which are located in the Central region/zone. Evidence of spread in Southwest and West central SK. The following municipalities are affected outside Saskatoon and Regina: Maple Creek, Auvergne, Biggar, Carmichael, Eagle Creek, Harris, Lac Pelletier, Newcombe, Perdue, Kellross, Prairiedale. Increased testing and contact tracing is ongoing in Hutterite communities with collaboration with the Hutterian Safety Council. Increased testing and contact tracing will be deployed to affected areas in a number of days. SK is reminded to follow the public health measures and personal safety precautions including self-isolation if in contact with someone who had COVID 19 or are ill yourself, physical distancing 2 meters, practicing proper hygiene, limiting the size of outdoor gatherings²⁷⁰.

July 14, 2020



SK reminds campers enhanced cleaning and minimizing contact with park visitors will be employed by staff; visitors should bring their own disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, maintain social distancing, respect the restrictions in place, to stay home if unwell²⁷¹. **Universal access to COVID testing by request is now live**²⁷². SHA reports possible exposures at businesses in Swift Current and areas. SHA asks those who attended these businesses and times to monitor for symptoms and test if ill. K Motel in Swift Current, June 29, 9am-9 p.m. & July 8, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Credit Union in Swift Current, July 6. Dickson Agencies in Swift Current, July 6. Lac Pelletier Regional Park Golf Course clubhouse, July 5, 3:45-4 p.m. Great West Auto Electric Ltd in Swift Current, July 6 and July 7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Walmart in Swift Current, July 7, 6:30-6:45 p.m. Pioneer Co-op Grocery store (Mall location) in Swift Current, July 7, 5:20-5:50 p.m. Canadian Tire in Swift Current, July 7, 7:50-8 p.m, July 8, 12:30-1 p.m, July 10. Canadian Tire in Swift Current. Cabri Co-op, July 9, 11-11:15 a.m. The public is reminded to maintain social distancing in stores, follow arrows, hand hygiene, and social isolating if ill as well as keeping gatherings small, limiting social circles, and obeying travel restrictions. Public notices are given if not all possible avenues of close contact can be traced. COVID 19 is easily transmitted even if businesses comply with guidelines²⁷³. **RONA self reports to media that they had a Saskatoon employee test positive for COVID 19 and advises the public that visitors to the Preston Avenue location between June 29 and July 3 self monitor for symptoms until July 17.** The store underwent precautionary cleaning. The SHA and SK government did not report on this incident²⁸³.

July 15, 2020

The Royal Saskatchewan Museum is set to re-open July 17 under guidelines from the SHA with reduced hours and decreased guest capacity (limited to 75 at a time). Groups of 6 or more will be asked to split into smaller groups. Walking and distancing signage will be given and guests are encouraged to use masks ²⁷⁷. **SHA institutes temporary visitor restrictions at Cypress Regional Hospital for compassionate reasons only. Compassionate reasons include but is not limited to end of life care, major surgery, ICU/CCU care, at the discretion of the care provider. Visitor restrictions are in place in long-term care homes in South West and West Central Saskatchewan. Visits limited to outdoor visits and end of life care in LTC in: Biggar, Cabri, Eastend, Elrose, Eston, Foam Lake, Gravelbourg, Gull Lake, KerRobert, Kindersley, Lafleche, Lestock, Mankota, Maple Creek, Meadows in Swift Current, Ponteix, Raymore, Rosetown, Shaunavon, Theodore, Wynyard. Family entering facilities will be screened with a questionnaire and have their temperature checked, perform hand hygiene at the facility door and the patient door entering and leaving, mask, and possibly wear additional PPE. Visitors will not be able to use waiting rooms. Virtual visits are encouraged. People are advised to follow public health guidelines and stay home and get tested when ill ²⁷⁸.**



SHA reminds SK that even through COVID 19, mental health services are still available. The website of services is <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/mental-health-and-covid-19> ^{274, 275}. **SHA informs public of emergence of increased infection in Southwest and South Central SK.** Reports that as a result of aggressive tracing and testing a number of infections have been identified with potential community transmission. A number of outbreaks are on Hutterite colonies. Hutterian Safety Council, local Hutterite leaderships, local municipalities and the business community are collaborating to combat the spread. SHA warns of increased testing and expects an increase in cases for the next day. SHA again reminds the public to be diligent with public health and personal safety guidelines ²⁷⁶.



July 16, 2020



July 17, 2020



SHA announces positive cases of employee in Saskatoon Midtown Plaza at 2 locations. Visitors at Garage Clothing on July 12 (10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Soft Moc on July 10 and 11 (10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m) are advised to monitor for symptoms, self isolate 14 days, and call 811 if ill. SHA announces positive cases of visitors in Regina retail locations. Visitors at Costco Regina on July 6 (3-4 p.m.) and KFC – 3998 Albert St. South on July 6 (noon-2 p.m.) are advised to monitor and self isolate. SHA continues to remind public of physical distancing to maintain a 2-metre separation at all times, frequent hand washing, and self-isolating, adhering to health guidelines, limiting your social circles, travel restrictions and not attending large gatherings^{279 280}. SHA acknowledges some individuals can and have gone from recovered status to reactive status. This occurs when a person has relapsed or developed new symptoms. Two flights with confirmed COVID 19 cases are added to the Public Health Agency of Canada Website for Saskatchewan. AC 8629 Toronto-Saskatoon on July 9 and WS605 Toronto-Regina on July 6. All passengers are asked to self monitor for 14 days. Only international travellers are asked to self isolate. SK reminds people that for sports: tournaments are not allowed, if the sport cannot be physically distanced mini-leagues should be formed of 50 individuals from the same neighborhoods, communities, or geographic regions and should not intermingle leagues²⁸¹. Motion fitness Saskatoon Brighton self reports to members at risk possible exposure July 9-14. It has a scan in system that identifies the at risk members. SK and the SHA did not report the exposure stating there was no contact tracing gaps or community risk²⁸⁸.

SK reports rise in discrimination that went along with the rise of cases in southwest Saskatchewan related to outbreaks in Hutterite communities. Reminds people this is not acceptable and that work is ongoing within the Hutterite communities affected and Hutterian Safety Council (increased testing, precautions). COVID is a non discriminate disease. (Without announcing it, it appears SK is reporting weekend COVID information again)²⁸².

July 18, 2020

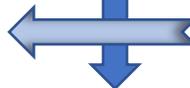


July 19, 2020



SHA expands list of businesses where possible exposure could have occurred in Swift Current. Wholesale Store, Swift Current, July 6, 4 p.m. Kruse Glass, Swift Current, July 6, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Walmart, Swift Current, July 6 between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Also July 7, 6:30-6:45 p.m. Also , July 9 around 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Dollarama, Wheatland Mall, Swift Current, July 6, between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Credit Union, Swift Current, July 6, multiple times. Dickson Agencies, Swift Current, July 6, multiple times. Rexall Pharmacy, Swift Current, July 7, multiple times. Canadian Tire, Swift Current, July 7, 7:50-8 p.m. Also , July 8, 12:30-1 p.m. Also July 10. K Motel, Swift Current, July 8. Scully's Food, Ponteix, July 10 around 4:00 p.m. Visitors are advised again to self monitor symptoms and call 811 and get tested if present. The following businesses are removed from the list of exposure locations: Pioneer Co-op Grocery store (Mall location), Swift Current, July 7, 5:20-5:50 p.m. Lac Pelletier Regional Park Golf Course clubhouse, July 5, 3:45-4 p.m. Great West Auto Electric Ltd (Bumper-to-Bumper), Swift Current, July 6 and July 7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Cabri Co-op July 9, 11-11:15 a.m. SHA reminds people not to discriminate and to abide by public health advise. Social distancing and wear a mask when that is not possible, limit gathering sizes, follow arrows in store, hand hygiene, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands ²⁸⁴. SHA reports possible exposure in Cut Knife. Country Roads Motor Inn - Dining area only, Cut Knife, SK – July 13, 14, 15, 16 from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m ²⁸⁵.

SHA announces resumption of ER services in Radville. The delay in resumption of ER services was due to recruiting of physicians ²⁸⁶. SK eports a spike in cases, 19 new cases of COVID 19 ²⁸⁷.



July 20, 2020

July 21, 2020

SK announces largest single day spike in COVID cases. 60 new cases. 48 are from colonies in the Southwest and Central regions, 43 from one community. The following RMs have colonies that are impacted: Auverge, Biggar, Carmichael, Eagle Creek, Grandview, Harris, Kindersley, Lawtonia, Maple Creek, Newcombe, Perdue, Pleasant Valley, Prariedale, Saskatchewan Landing, St. Andrews, Tramping Lake, Webb. Affected

communities were given the following public health guidelines: stay in your home community as much as possible, self isolate and get tested if there are any illnesses, self isolate and get tested if you are known to have contacted someone who tested positive, limit your contacts and group gatherings. The government is working with affected communities on a restricted travel for non essential travel plan. Essential travel will be limited to a small number of individuals²⁹⁰. SHA eases visitor restrictions of July 8 put in place in Prince Albert facilities. No new cases have been reported in 14 days. Regular visitor restrictions are now in place again. It continues to remind people to take precautions, socially distance, practice frequent hand hygiene, and self isolate when ill, abide by facility and municipal health guidelines, limit social circles, restrict travel, and avoid large gatherings²⁹¹. Parents in SK begin to criticize the back to school plan of the province, which leaves most of the planning to the divisions/boards. Parents want to province to fund and create plans. The guidelines are suggestions and leave out physical distancing, PPE, and funding for sanitizer for all, and other “proven” measures. There is no added funding for janitorial supplies/measures²⁹².



SK announces modifications to reopening guidelines. SK allows drive in theatres to reduce vehicle distance from 5 meters to 2. Libraries and places of worship where items are borrowed, the return holding time is reduced to 24 hours from 72. Fitness facilities must now register guests to facilitate contact tracing, and are allowed to open 24 hours again. Campgrounds can now open laundry facilities following new safety guidelines. Yard and garage sales resume. Physical distancing must be maintained and gathering sizes for outdoors are enforced. Advice around payment options is given. Signage must be posted about distancing. Sanitation must be heightened. Group garage sales are still restricted. Door to door canvassing is allowed. Physical distancing is required. Promotional materials are not allowed to be handed out and pens and items must not be shared²⁸⁹.



July 22, 2020



July 22, 2020



SK announces 42 new cases of COVID 19, 17 related to Hutterite colony outbreaks. SK announces one new death related to COVID 19 in the province, and adult in their 60s from Northern SK. SK performs an all time high of 1468 COVID tests in SK ²⁹³.

SHA reports possible exposure in businesses in Swift Current on July 14: Home Hardware, 11:00-12:00, Dollarama (Swift Current Mall), 3:00-3:15, Staples, 3:20-4:10, Canadian Tire, 4:15-4:30. SHA continues to remind public of physical distancing to maintain a 2-metre separation at all times, frequent hand washing, and self-isolating, adhering to health guidelines, limiting your social circles, travel restrictions and not attending large gatherings ²⁹⁴. SHA reports increased community transmission in Cut Knife and Hillsdale with 4 confirmed community transmission cases.

Residents in the area are asked to socially distance, practice hand hygiene, use a mask when in indoor public areas, limit social circles, reduce travel, and not attend large gatherings. A list of symptoms is provided ²⁹⁵.

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