

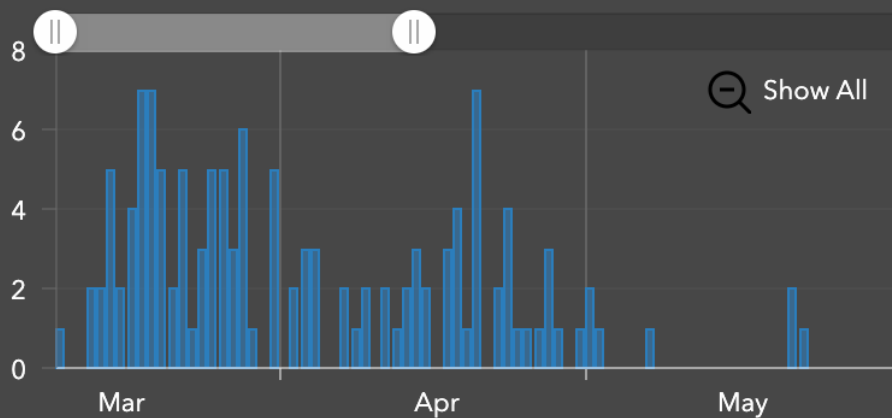
The COVID-19 pandemic has altered our day to day lives in unprecedented ways. On March 17, the provincial health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry declared a public health emergency and over the course of the following days, restrictive measures were put in place that would have non-essential members of our community self-isolating for close to 2 months. During Phase 1 of the provincial emergency response Social Planning Cowichan began gathering information and collecting experiences on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on individuals and households in the Cowichan Region. We asked our community to reflect on how these times were affecting them - What have you found challenging or has given you hope? How do you feel about the future as we start on the other side of this crisis?

Four surveys were launched and available to complete between May 1st to June 15th:

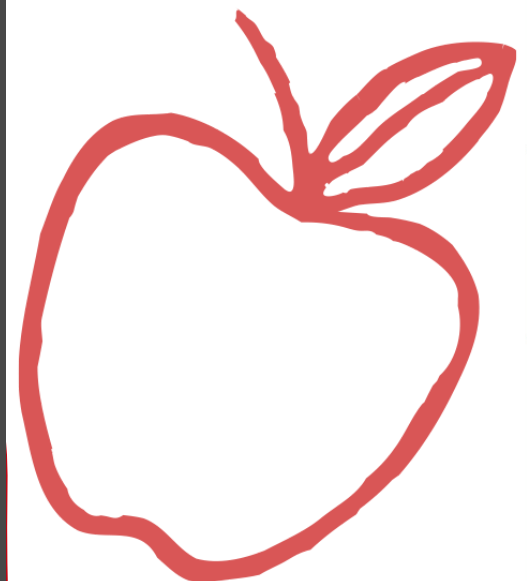
- Food security and household activities
- Work and household income
- Personal and Family Well Being
- Families with children, aging family members and/or special needs/mobility challenges



Health Authority Cases Reported to Public Health by Day



Daily Cases on Vancouver Island



March 11: Pandemic declared by the World Health Organization

March 12: Provincial Health Authorities in BC recommend all events over 250 people be cancelled; Recommend against all non-essential travel outside of Canada, including USA; Those returning should self-isolate for 14 days.

March 16: Public health officials advise British Columbians to work from home if able; Gatherings of more than 50 people are banned; Businesses that cannot avoid large groups of people, like restaurants, bars and casinos, are ordered to shut down; Restaurants move to take-out service only; Visits to long-term care homes are restricted to essential workers.

PHASE 1

March 17: Provincial Health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry declares a public health emergency. Classes cancelled indefinitely for K to 12.

March 18: Provincial state of emergency declared; Announcement that Canada-U.S. border will be shut down to non-essential travellers like shoppers and tourists.

March 21: BC Ministry of Health orders personal service businesses to shut down immediately. Essential services allowed to operate.

March 26: Care home staff are ordered to stop working at multiple facilities at once. Federal government imposes strict mandatory quarantine rules on travellers returning to Canada (heavy fines, jail time can be awarded if people ignore these regulations).

April 8: Government of BC announces mandatory self-isolation plan for returning travellers. All provincial parks and campgrounds are closed.

April 15: Provincial state of emergency extended to April 28th.

May 1: BC begins accepting financial applications for its Emergency Benefit for Workers (one time \$1000 payment for affected workers).

May 14: Some restrictions begin to ease, provincial parks open for day use.

SOURCES:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/covid-19-bc-timeline-1.5520943>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/phase-3>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/covid19-bc-update-july-23-1.5660471>

<https://www.theprogress.com/news/covid-19-heres-a-phase-by-phase-look-at-how-b-c-hopes-to-re-open-parts-of-society/>

The COVID 19 community surveys were developed by the Social Planning Cowichan team, with guidance and input from Michael Lait, Social Planning Cowichan chair and post doctoral fellow at Vancouver Island University, whose expertise is conducting community-based social impact research. We also liaised with staff from the Economic Development Department at the CVRD to ensure collaboration with their efforts to survey the business community.

We used SurveyMethods, an online survey tool with pre-built and customizable templates for both choice and open-ended responses.

The surveys were promoted through Facebook and distributed by email through multiple community networks and local business associations throughout the region. The surveys were sent out to all media outlets in the Cowichan Valley, with uptake from The Discourse Cowichan, an online independent news forum. Paper copies of the survey were sent out through Emergency Food Access Task Force Food Basket program.

Number of respondents for each survey

Survey #1 Food security and household activities - 262

Survey #2 Work and household income 126

Survey # 3 Personal and family well being 120

**Survey #4 Families with children, aging family members
and/or special needs/mobility challenges 150**

