

# COVID-19 Update

Emergency Advisory Committee  
March 13, 2020

# Agenda

1. Objectives
2. Role of Emergency Advisory Committee (EAC)
3. Situation update
4. Current actions
5. Communications
6. Request for decisions

# Objectives

1. Maintain governance function
2. Ensure continuity of services to residents
3. Identify required supports for vulnerable residents
4. Develop employee plan

# Role of EAC

- Obtain regular situation reports from the EOC/Task Force.
- Approve expenditures to meet response requirements.
- Provide strategic guidance and direction.
- In conjunction with Public Information Officer, share verified information affecting our community with the public and media (through designated spokespersons).

# Situation Update

The Emergency Management Agency receives daily updates from the Provincial Operations Centre (POC)

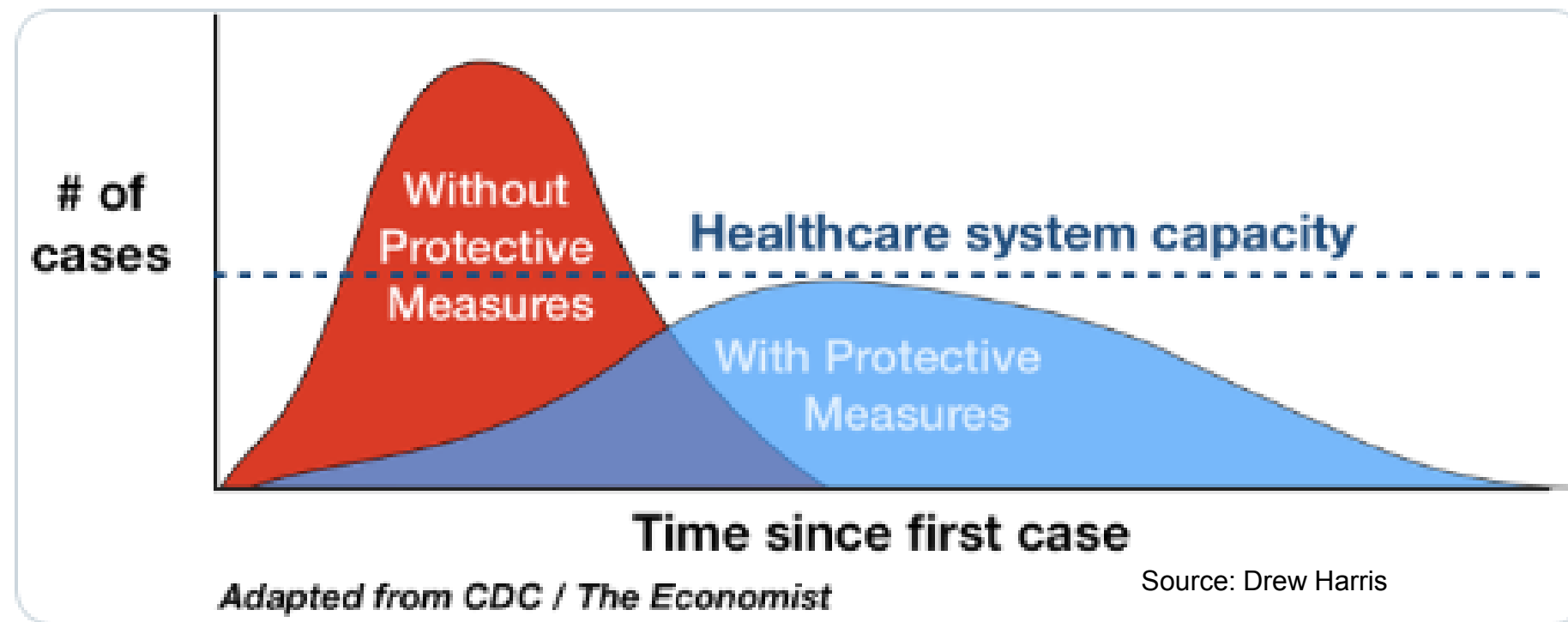
Provincial Pandemic Plan has 4 distinct phases:

1. Preparation
2. Containment
  - a. Individual
  - b. Group (travel, church, sport teams, etc.)
3. Mitigation
  - a. Community impacts (school closing, cancelling public gatherings)
4. Recovery

# Approach

Important to remember that COVID-19 epidemic control measures may only delay cases, not prevent.

However, this may limit surge and gives hospitals time to prepare and manage.



# Situation Update

- Regional Context
  - Capital Region Emergency Preparedness (CREPP) call with AHS
  - North Central Alberta Social Services Committee
  - Monitoring and sharing information with other municipalities

# Current Actions

- Following direction from Alberta Health
- Coordinating our response with Province and region
- Communication to residents
- Actioning our business continuity plans



# Current Actions *Cont'd*

- Contacting community stakeholders
- Planning for vulnerable populations
- Enhancing facility cleaning protocol
- Planning for and responding to staff impacts
- Financial tracking has been established

# Communications

- This is a dynamic environment, as we saw yesterday the situation can change quickly
- Our website is our source of truth
- Our priority is to provide regular updates through our website and through Facebook and Twitter
- Will be providing updates to the EAC and staff weekly or more frequently as conditions change

# Social Media

- Our website is our source of truth
- Facebook and Twitter will be used to provide updates as conditions evolve
- All inquiries will be monitored
- Adjusting normal operations approach to respond to individual questions via social media to an overall theme-based response
- Our focus will be responding to themes/FAQ and directing our residents to trusted sources such as Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services

# Service Impacts

- Administration is contacting partners and clients to cancel events and programming taking place in Strathcona County facilities that were expected to gather 250 people or more, or gatherings that would include people from populations vulnerable to COVID-19
- Working on:
  - Refund procedures
  - Postponement of public engagement
  - Staff work from home options

# Business Continuity

- All Strathcona County services are operational at this time
- Our service inventory is updated including verification of critical and vital services
  - desired
  - essential
- Continued planning for:
  - Staff requirements for each service and commencing scenario planning under an assumed 50% reduction in staff
  - Potential reallocation of staff across service areas

# Emergency Social Services

- Following direction of the province/Alberta Health Services
- Assessing how our residents may be impacted including our most vulnerable
- Beginning to identify how we might mobilize services to mitigate impact
- Starting conversations with our social non-profit partners to understand business continuity plans and how to work best together

# Adapting Social Supports

- We are observing increased levels of distress for some of our residents and participants at Family and Community Services
- Early preparations for alternative delivery of critical social supports that are typically delivered in person

# Facility Cleaning

- Increased cleaning of high touch areas
- Cleaners were proactively upgraded for flu and cold season
- These enhancements are consistent across our public facilities
- Daily cleaning of busses equivalent to a level of “deep clean” (sanitization)



# Staff Impacts

- General message: Stay home if you are ill
- Employee with COVID-19 symptoms:
  - Stay home – self isolate for 14 days
  - Call 811
  - Contact Disability Management (DM) in Human Resources
- Employees returning from travel outside of Canada:
  - Self isolate for 14 days
  - May work from home if operationally required and feasible
- No medical documentation is required but employees must contact DM

# Staff Impacts

- Answering more specific questions that arise or are anticipated
- Ramping up work from home capability
- Travel restrictions for business travel (outside Canada) put in place Wednesday, March 11
- FAQ resources available and being expanded
- Emotional well-being

# Request for Decision

- Funding
  - Motion follows in next slide
  - This does not include potential for revenue loss
- Refund procedures
  - Set through procedures and agreements but Council may vary
- Facility closures – scalable closures versus broader precautions

# Funding Motion

THAT a budget increase of up to \$150,000 to fund additional costs incurred as a result of the COVID-19 (CoronaVirus) pandemic, with the source of funds to be the Municipal Projects Reserve (1.7337) be approved.

# Refund Procedure

Administration Recommendation:

THAT despite existing policies, procedures and budgets, Administration be authorized to refund deposits for any events that have been booked to occur during the period March 13 until April 30, 2020, if the event was booked for greater than 20 attendees.

# Stop the Spread

Prevention starts with awareness. Be informed on how you can protect yourself and others from novel coronavirus:

- Self-isolate if you're feeling sick
- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching your face

[alberta.ca/covid19](https://alberta.ca/covid19)