



Emergency Preparedness Week – May 3-9, 2020

Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility that begins with making a plan and being prepared to look after yourself, your family and your pets for a minimum of one week. Emergency Preparedness Week is a reminder intended to raise awareness and offer information and tips to help prepare businesses, individuals and families for the possibility of an emergency or disaster incident.

The past few weeks have reminded us just how important personal preparedness can be and as we have learned, being prepared and having a plan is critical. During this time of physical and social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we can take the important steps to prepare for a situation that can occur anytime, anywhere by protecting ourselves and our families. While being isolated at home, it's a great time to build on the emergency preparedness plans and supplies you have prepared for other potential emergencies. For more information on how to prepare yourself and your family in the event of an emergency, please visit [GetPrepared.ca](https://www.getprepared.ca)

Listed below are preparedness websites:

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

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

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc>

COVID-19 is a serious health threat and the situation continues to evolve. The risk will vary between and within communities and some Canadians are more at risk of developing severe complications from COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions and age. We must continue to think ahead about the actions we need to take to stay healthy and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Voyent Alert! – with the COVID-19 situation, ensuring Parksville-Qualicum Beach residents receive up-to-date communications is even more important. Alerts can be sent over a variety of channels including mobile apps, text/SMS, email or voice dial. Registration is FREE, simple and anonymous. Mobile app users can download the *Voyent Alert!* app from the Apple or Google Play app stores. Email or SMS users may register online to receive email or text-based alerts at <https://register.voyent-alert.com>. Access to the Voyent Alert! sign-up can also be accessed from the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach websites along with instructions.

EMO E-News – we are offering an electronic newsletter which will include updates about COVID-19 as well as emergency preparedness info for the Parksville-Qualicum Beach region. Signup at [EmergencyOceanside.ca](https://www.emergencyoceanside.ca).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach will not be scheduling any public events for emergency preparedness week.

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For more information, please contact emergency program coordinators:

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