



## **HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **CORONAVIRUS AWARENESS (COVID-19)**

**EFFECTIVE: 2021-01-05**

As a company, St'át'imc Eco-Resources Ltd (SER) is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all our staff, including our office staff, field technicians, contractors and visitors. This document will review in detail information regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the updated precautions SER will take on mitigating the concerns related to this virus. Action we have taken in the past and now has and will continue to help to protect our staff and our company, as well as our town and surrounding St'át'imc communities.

#### **What is COVID-19?**

In early 2020, after a December 2019 outbreak in China, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified a new type, 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), which can be fatal. The organization named the virus severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and named the disease it causes COVID-19. The outbreak quickly moved from China around the world.

#### **How does COVID-19 spread?**

When someone who has COVID-19 coughs or exhales they release droplets of infected fluid. Most of these droplets fall on nearby surfaces and objects - such as desks, tables or telephones. People could catch COVID-19 by touching contaminated surfaces or objects – and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. If they are standing within one meter of a person with COVID-19 they can catch it by breathing in droplets coughed out or exhaled by them. In other words, COVID-19 spreads in a similar way to flu. Most persons infected with COVID-19 experience mild symptoms and recover. However, some go on to experience more serious illness and may require hospital care. Risk of serious illness rises with age: people over 40 seem to be more vulnerable than those under 40. People with weakened immune systems and people with conditions such as diabetes, heart and lung disease are also more vulnerable to serious illness.



## **What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Some patients may have aches and pains, headaches, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea. These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. Around 1 out of every 6 people who gets COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness. People with fever, cough and difficulty breathing should seek medical attention.

## **Employee Illness and Sickness**

It is mandatory that if an employee has even a mild cough or low-grade fever (37.3°C or higher), or any other symptoms, that they stay at home. Before returning to work, the employee will be required to present a doctor's note stating that they are fit for work and pose no threat to the health of other employees.

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## **Local Positive COVID-19 Cases**

As many of us know, there have been multiple positive COVID-19 cases reported in Lillooet and the surrounding St'at'imc communities in the past recent weeks. Contact tracing is underway, however we need to take a proactive approach to these events to mitigate any further spread, which may be unknown at this time. We also need to ensure the safety and health of our staff, as well as our neighbouring community, T'it'q'et.

## **Ti't'q'et Phase 1 Reinstatement**

As the SER office is on Ti't'q'et band land, we abide by and respect their recent decision to revert back to Phase 1 of their community's COVID-19 response plan under the Ti't'q'et State of Emergency. Specifically, this states, "Ti't'q'et lands closed to all non-residents except for essential services and individuals/organizations authorized by Ti't'q'et Council." SER office staff have permission to enter Ti't'q'et's land and complete work in the SER office.



## **SER Office Closed to Public**

To mitigate any further spread or concern of COVID-19 within the SER office and on T'it'q'et band land the SER office will remain closed to the public, including visitors, solicitors, technicians and subcontractors. All office staff will be subject to daily COVID-19 screening and any staff showing symptoms will be immediately sent home for isolation. If this occurs, our office will be shut down for the incubation period and all staff will be in self-isolation until a negative COVID-19 test result comes back. If staff were working from home and did not come in contact with the sick individual they may continue to work from home as long as they themselves do not develop any symptoms.

## **Minimizing the Spread**

SER would like to remind everyone that we play a very important part in minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Please continue to maintain your physical distancing, only socializing with those in your immediate household, avoiding non-essential travel, wearing a face mask in public and at work in the SER office, cleaning and sanitizing commonly touched surfaces often, and, of course, washing your hands frequently and avoiding touching your face.

## **Provincial and Local Health Guidelines and Restrictions**

By order and direction of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), all events and social gatherings are suspended to significantly reduce COVID-19 transmission related to social interactions and travel.

The order is in effect from November 19, 2020 at midnight to February 5, 2021 at midnight.

For more information and full details, please visit the following website

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