

**COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic - update**

THE THREAT OF INFECTION TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY IS A REAL RISK

During these times of unprecedented changes to everyone's daily routines, it is important to remain vigilant and act in the best interests of the health and safety of not only ourselves but that of others. Talk to your family members and check in with people that are in self-isolation.

Over the past week various shire facilities have been closed and organisations and sporting groups ceased to operate. All these decisions have been made on the advice received from the State and Federal Governments around social distancing and gathering numbers. We thank those groups and individuals for their commitment to keep our town safe.

At this stage the Shire’s administration and transfer station will remain open, with strict hygiene and social distancing measures in place. We request everyone respects the directions given to them by our staff at these locations.

Measures that have been put in place within the community are for everyone’s protection, and to help lessen the risk of possible transmission. New measures include travellers from overseas being required to self-isolate for 14 days in quarantine at either Rottnest or a designated hotel in Perth.

Also, intraregional travel restrictions will be in place from midnight Tuesday 31 Mar 20, and will be enforced by police and defence if required. Boyup Brook is part of the South West Region which stretches from Harvey to Walpole.

For the most recent information please visit the HealthyWA website which is ww2.health.wa.gova.au. It is also recommended that everyone download the coronavirus app via their phone app catalogue.

The Shire has established a CN19 management team that will be meeting weekly and receiving regular updates from the local agencies such as St John Ambulance, Boyup Brook Hospital, and Boyup Brook Police. We will be taking our advice and direction from the Department of Health and other state government authorities. The team will be working on a plan to implement business continuity across the shire.

We have a challenging period ahead of us as a small community and I urge everyone to remain vigilant to get ahead of the spread of this currently incurable COVID-19 virus. Please focus on each other’s health and welfare and if a family member shows signs of symptoms, make contact with our hospital or medical services providers for more information on how to receive help. We are a relatively isolated town however, no one is guaranteed to not be at risk unless isolated, practicing social distancing and maintaining strict hygiene protocols.

Make sure to keep in contact with close family and friends by whatever non-intimate means possible. We need to pull together as a whole and look after those amongst us who are most vulnerable. This can include offering to collect essential supplies for your elderly and ring distant family and friends to break the feeling of isolation. Please stay focused and I hope this major disruption is not too extensive.

I would like to reinforce the comments by the Premier Mark McGowen in that I totally feel for the local businesses that made changes to their trading conditions and have had to put staff off. I thank you for putting this community first.

This is a serious situation and only by everyone’s co-operation can we as a community stop the spread. We need to act now as if the virus is here and respect the rules.