

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

### FACT SHEET

May 7, 2020

#### Loose Bay Campground and COVID-19 Precautions

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##### Background

On May 1, 2020 Loose Bay Campground, a seasonal facility near Oliver, BC that has historically catered to domestic temporary workers, opened for the season. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) holds a license of occupation on the Crown parcel where Loose Bay Campground is located. In past years, the Loose Bay Campground Society, an independent agricultural industry group has managed the campground. On April 27 of this year, the society voted to dissolve as a result of the complexities of meeting the safety guidelines required by the COVID-19 pandemic. The camp has been self-sufficient and the RDOS has not provided oversight in the past. Loose Bay Campground is used by domestic temporary workers as well as tourists and others, many of whom stay several months at a time.

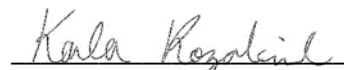
##### COVID-19 Precautions

Loose Bay Campground currently has three staff members including a site manager, a site caretaker, and a newly hired RDOS COVID-19 coordinator. The RDOS is supporting the farming community and is working with Interior Health, Ministry of Agriculture, BC Housing, BC Fruit Growers' Association, and other provincial and regional stakeholders to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. All new entry residents at Loose Bay Campground are now greeted by the RDOS COVID-19 coordinator for the site, and are then required to complete a COVID-19 Self-Assessment (online or paper copy) before entering the camp. This step is also required for anyone who has been away from the camp for more than 24 hours. Campers are also provided with a site orientation and discussion about COVID-19 prevention including physical distancing. A copy of the orientation is provided in English and French. Visitors, such as farmers looking to hire temporary workers are asked to complete the COVID-19 Self-Assessment before entering the camp. These measures are being facilitated by the RDOS COVID-19 coordinator on site.

In the event an individual is identified as having COVID-19 symptoms, steps are in place to ensure the individual follows provincial health directives. This includes contacting 8-1-1 Health Link and following the directions of a nurse. Next steps may include making arrangements for a COVID-19 test and quarantine if directed by a physician. Isolation would be facilitated by Interior Health and coordinated by BC Housing.

Agricultural workers are a designated essential service. They play an important role in the region's economy and helping ensure food security. Providing seasonal accommodations at Loose Bay Campground helps agricultural workers remain safe and available for service. RDOS staff will continue working with the Province, Interior Health, industry representatives, and local elected officials to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Feedback received via email which is directed to the RDOS board, will be included with board correspondence.

For further information, please call 250-492-0237 or email [info@rdos.bc.ca](mailto:info@rdos.bc.ca).



Karla Kozakevich, Chair

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

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**Loose Bay Campground Orientation**  
Photo: Anne Benn, RDOS Emergency Program Coordinator