

COVID-19 FAQs

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Q: *BC suspended all States of Local Emergency, what does that mean for Haida Gwaii?*

A: On March 26, 2020 BC suspended all of States of Local Emergency (SOLE). This suspension applies to all BC municipal SOLEs, including the Villages of Masset, Port Clements and Queen Charlotte, and North Coast Regional District

Q: *Are the CHN and Village Councils' States of Emergency still in place?*

A: YES, the Haida Nation's State of Emergency is still in place. BC's actions do not affect the Haida Gwaii State of Emergency declared by the Council of the Haida Nation in accordance with the Haida Accord and the Constitution of the Haida Nation. States of Emergency declared by the Old Massett Village Council and the Skidegate Band Council are still in place under Canadian legislation

The Village of Queen Charlotte and all Island communities and elected officials of Haida Gwaii stand unequivocally with, and in support of, the Haida Nation's enactment of the Haida Gwaii State of Emergency declared March 23, 2020 and of the emergency measures that it mandated.



COVID-19 FAQs

SHOULD WE BE WEARING MASKS?

Q: *There seems to be a lot of conflicting information about masks. Should or shouldn't we be wearing them?*

A: The Village of Queen Charlotte recommend following the advice of Northern Health: wearing a cloth mask is a matter of personal choice. The virus could potentially be spread by people with mild symptoms or who are otherwise unaware that they are infected. Handmade cloth masks protect others from your droplets but it will not protect you on their own. *Remember:*

- The most important thing you can do to avoid getting COVID-19 is to wash your hands regularly, avoid touching your face and practice physical distancing.
- Medical masks and respirators need to be reserved for our health care settings and our health care workers because that's where they do the most good.
- Masks should be used by sick people to prevent transmission to others. A mask will help keep a person's droplets in.
- It may be less effective to wear a mask if you are not sick yourself. Masks may give a false sense of security and are likely to increase the number of times a person will touch their own face (e.g., to adjust the mask).
- A handmade cloth face covering, for the short term, can protect others around you from your droplets, by acting much like coughing into your sleeve, but it will not protect you like maintaining a safe physical distance does.
- If you are in a situation where it is not possible to practice physical distancing, wearing a mask may help to reduce transmission of COVID-19.
- **A mask does not provide invulnerability: physical distancing and hand washing remain the most important steps for prevention.**



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