



DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

March 19, 2020

Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
PO Box 9050
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Honourable Adrian Dix:

RE: COVID19 – Testing Needed for First Responders

The District of Metchosin Council is requesting the Ministry of Health prioritize COVID-19 testing for all first responders. Under current protocols if a responder demonstrates all of the symptoms of the virus, but can't prove direct contact, they are not being tested and therefore could be repeatedly called to self-isolate, even though they may have developed immunity.

It appears we are at the beginning phases of this pandemic and in time we may have to rely on first responders who have already contracted COVID-19 and have subsequently recovered. The only way we can do this is to ensure they are tested at the time they are demonstrating symptoms.

We are also concerned by the substantial increase of mental health stress that is being put on our volunteers' responders and their families and how it could have both immediate and long-term impacts on our ability to recruit.

We are therefore requesting first responders be included in the category who is exempted in the direct contact requirement.

Sincerely,

John Rams
Mayor

cc Dr. Richard Stanwick, Chief Medical Health Officer
Ryan Wainwright, Sr. Regional Manager, Emergency Management BC
BC Municipalities