

For Immediate Release | March 30, 2020

Elkford Emergency Department service change

ELKFORD – Interior Health will close the emergency department at the Elkford Health Centre effective April 1, 2020 until the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

The decision was made based on ongoing staffing challenges that cannot be addressed at this time. This change will help ensure stable emergency services for all people in the Elk Valley and was informed by pandemic planning work in the East Kootenay.

Interior Health regrets this interruption to our normal emergency department services in Elkford. People should take note of the following if they require care when the emergency department is closed:

- In the event of an emergency, call 9-1-1.
- Visit the emergency department at one of the following facilities:
 - Sparwood Health Centre – open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Elk Valley Hospital in Fernie – 24-hour service
- Call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 (24-hour service) if you are unsure about your need to go to the emergency department.

The Elkford Health Centre remains open for scheduled primary care appointments (including new telehealth appointments to allow for COVID-19 social distancing recommendations), lab and X-ray services.

For information about COVID-19, please see the Interior Health website, <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/covid-19/>.