



NEWS RELEASE

March 13, 2020

SHOAL Centre closes to protect health during COVID-19

SIDNEY, BC -- Effective at 4:30 today and until further notice, SHOAL Community Centre, in Sidney, will be closed to the public. The closure is a precautionary measure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Beacon Community Services announced today.

"The safety of our members, residents and volunteers is paramount. We know seniors are at highest risk of illness due to COVID-19 and so, out of an abundance of caution, it seems prudent to close for the time being," said Bob Boulter, CEO of Beacon Community Services, the charity which operates the centre.

SHOAL typically hosts a wide range of activities for seniors, their caregivers and their family members. The centre also houses Beacon Community Services' volunteer services program, and a variety of outreaches to isolated seniors and others in the community.

For the duration of the closure, volunteers and staff will make reassurance and wellness checks by phone for local seniors, Boulter said.

Beacon's SHOAL Assisted Living home, which is on the centre's upper floors, will continue to operate and provide care and support to residents. The SHOAL kitchen will continue to provide food services to SHOAL residents but will be closed to the general public.

"We know SHOAL is a special place for many in the community, and we appreciate their understanding and patience under the circumstances," said Boulter. He encouraged seniors and other members of the community to continue taking appropriate steps to maintain their health and well-being while the centre is closed.

For more information about Beacon Community Services, see www.beaconcs.ca

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