



Based on the most recent information and advice from [Health Canada](#), the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) and local [Health Authorities](#) most pools and recreation centres are now closed. Consequently, and in keeping with best preventative practices, the BC & Yukon Branch of the Lifesaving Society advises that:

- 1) All Lifesaving Society courses should be cancelled until further notice.
- 2) The Branch Office will be closed as of today, Tuesday, March 17, 2020, however we have activated our business continuity plan and will continue to serve you remotely on a limited basis. Emails to [info@lifesaving.bc.ca](mailto:info@lifesaving.bc.ca) will be monitored remotely and responded to.
- 3) Orders made through the Shop will also continue to be monitored and fulfilled as required.
- 4) Due to recertification courses not being available at this time, the BC & Yukon Branch will be allowing one-time only extensions for one (1) month for awards expiring between March 15 and April 15, 2020. For example, if a certification expires on March 21, the candidate will have one month, until April 21, to recertify their award. This includes first aid certifications that are not deemed as OFA Level 1 equivalent and all first aid certifications obtained prior to July 1, 2019 (date of OFA equivalent status). This extension period will be reviewed and modified as necessary based on the status of COVID-19 related closures.
- 5) In regard to extensions for OFA equivalent first aid certifications, we are in communication with WorkSafeBC as to their stance on this, but did not have confirmation at the time of distributing this Update. We will inform you as soon as we know differently.
- 6) Test sheets submitted prior to, or shortly after our office closure, will continue to be processed and awards sent to candidates, electronically for first aid certifications. Send test sheets to [awards@lifesaving.bc.ca](mailto:awards@lifesaving.bc.ca).
- 7) All regional Affiliate meetings scheduled for April/May are postponed to later dates to be determined.
- 8) The Barnsley Branch Lifeguard Championship (scheduled for March 28) has been postponed to a later date to be determined.

The Lifesaving Society will continue to monitor the situation and provide as much notice as possible as to when programs may resume and the Branch Office will re-open.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.