



Dene Tha' First Nation
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM
COVID-19

COVID-19 CURRENT SITUATION UPDATE

May 29, 2020

The Emergency Management Team (EMT) met with Dene Tha' First Nation (DTFN) Chief and Council on May 27, 2020 and have provided its recommendations based on previous weeks and months of COVID-19 statistics, monitoring data and EMT meetings up to May 26, 2020. A considerable amount of information was discussed, and the outcome of the meeting was based on balancing out details along with statistics and current situation of COVID-19, the decision was made jointly. We ask each and everyone of you, to help us during the pandemic to ensure each one of you, your families and the communities remain safe and healthy. Until a successful vaccine is developed, enough made for Canada, and everyone inoculated; the possibility of getting COVID-19 infection remains. It is still not safe.

The DTFN C&C and EMT have jointly agreed to extend the Response to COVID-19: The DTFN Council Resolution 2019-2020-0052 will remain in effect. Some measures have been relaxed, as follows:

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES RESTRICTIONS

- **Public Health Measures – Restrictions has been extended to June 30, 2020.** The previous document released to public titled "*DTFN Emergency Response to COVID-19 Implementation Updates*" are still applicable and will be updated to reflect the recent changes and shared again.

COMMUNITY MONITORING STATIONS:

- The previously named "**Checkpoints**" in each community will now be called "**Community Monitoring Stations**". A team will be assigned to develop questions for points of entry/leaving, these can be answered voluntarily, new signages will be created to reflect these changes by Operations Services. **The Community Monitoring Stations will be in place until June 30, 2020**
- **Members/residents, staff, and essential services are allowed entry.** Anyone who is not a registered member of DTFN and are not residents will not be allowed entry. Note: this does not include children who are waiting to be registered.
- In addition to changing the name to reflect a more relaxed restriction - decisions were reached to ease up on restrictions:
 - Each vehicle is now allowed up to 4 people per vehicle.
 - Inter-community travel is allowed as before. However, it is recommended that children, elders and those with chronic conditions still be considered vulnerable and stay home unless necessary.
 - If you have any flu-like symptoms, feeling sick, please remain at home until you get better. If you do have symptoms please consider getting tested by calling the health centres, or for Bushe the town testing site.
 - Members are encouraged to leave their children at home as much as possible when leaving to pick up essential supplies. Children tend to touch variety of items and without realizing it may touch their mouth, eyes, nose.
 - The masks will be made available at each Community Monitoring Station as given out by monitors personnel. The masks will be made available as soon as we receive delivery and are delivered to the monitoring sites.
 - Should you prefer to use your own masks, please do so.

- Curfew hours have been lifted, there is no more curfew hours within communities of Chateh, Meander River and Bushe River. Curfew/Community Patrol security will be released of their duties effective May 27, 2020.
- Traveling to areas where there are no COVID-19 cases are now allowed however please use precautionary health measures to stay safe. If you develop symptoms, you are advised to self isolate for 10 days and ask for testing as per guidance from your health centres.
- It is discouraged to travel to infected area/zones

OFFICE CLOSURES

- All offices remain closed to the public until July 3, 2020
- **If all is well by July 3, 2020, a decision will be made to re-open our Nation Offices starting on JULY 6, 2020.**
- In anticipation of the re-opening of the offices, a planned approach will be followed by the Directors/Managers/Coordinators to ensure proper health measures are completed by each department prior to re-opening date.
- For those who continue to be in the workplace or are returning to the workplace, follow all guidelines in place for your site. The best way to continue to protect yourself and those around you are point-of-care risk assessments, appropriate PPE use, and physical distancing when close proximity is not required as in delivering patient care.
- Additionally, hand hygiene continues to be critical to our staff, and clients and/or patients. Please be sure to wash hands at all stages of donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) PPE, and regularly throughout all shifts, as per usual, and regularly clean high-touch surfaces.
- Additional information on timing and support for staff returning to the workplace will be available in the coming weeks.

STAYING HEALTHY AND SAFE DURING RE-LAUNCH AND RE-OPENING

- Though the province is gradually re-launching, it is clear that the health risk posed by this pandemic has not gone away. Balancing precautions with new freedoms will be necessary to continue to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the days, weeks and even months ahead.
- **Here are some quick tips to keep in mind as you go about your daily activities in our current reality:**
 - Continue to practice physical distancing – that means keeping at least two metres or 6 feet distance from people outside your household or cohort family. * (Cohort Family definition: “Partnering with a cohort family” a group of close friends whom you are certain have self-isolated themselves, have not recently travelled and do not pose any risk of being infected with COVID-19)
 - Try to limit the number of times you need to leave the house for errands.
 - Limit indoor gatherings to no more than 15 people and outdoor gatherings to no more than 50. In both cases, do not share food or drinks and always maintain physical distance.
 - Many families are taking advantage of restaurants opening up again. Please be respectful and mindful of the precaution restaurants have in place. This includes tables of no more than six individuals and spacing of at least six feet between all tables. We also recommend ordering your own food and not eating from shared plates.
 - Continue to wash your hands regularly with soap and warm water, or clean hands with hand sanitizer when on the go.
 - If you feel ill, stay home and use the [online self-assessment tool](#) to determine if you should be tested. Even if you are just feeling generally unwell, you should use the tool to assess your situation.
 - Stay informed. Information and guidance on the re-launch can be found on the Government of Alberta’s site and alberta.ca/covid19. For more from Alberta Health Services (AHS), continue to visit AHS.ca/covid.

Thank you,

Dene Tha’ First Nation – Chief & Council and Emergency Management Team