



Dene Tha' First Nation
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM
COVID-19

COVID-19 CURRENT SITUATION UPDATE

July 13, 2020

The Emergency Management Team (EMT) met with Dene Tha' First Nation (DTFN) Chief and Council on July 6, 2020 and have provided its recommendations on **“Re-opening Plans for DTFN”** based on previous weeks and months of COVID-19 statistics, monitoring data and EMT meetings. 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 to approve the plans on safely re-opening and easing restrictions. The global COVID-19 pandemic is not over and new cases continue to be reported in Alberta, in Canada and all over the world. We ask each and everyone of you, to continue helping 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. We continue to encourage everyone to remain vigilant during the pandemic.

The DTFN C&C and EMT have agreed to lift the State of Local Emergency to allow our members to enjoy the outdoors, for mental health, the well-being of families and a time to prepare for the potential second wave that is expected in the coming Fall/Winter influenza season. Our Emergency Operations Center has been de-escalated, and an “On Call Schedule” has been developed for the time-period. There is an EOC Administrator on call from July 6, 2020 to September 5, 2020, this will ensure that members still have a number to call with questions, concerns, or for more information regarding COVID-19.

Alberta Public Health Measures still continue within our province. The DTFN and EMT will continue to review the COVID-19 pandemic situation, and if needed due to the potential second wave of COVID-19 and there is evidence of community spread, the EMT is prepared to reinstate the State of Local Emergency, and reimplement safety measures for our communities.

Dr. Hinshaw – Alberta Chief Medical Officer stresses that the fight against this virus is far from over. We must continue to work together to manage risk, use common sense and remain vigilant to contain this virus. COVID-19 is still here. It will be with us all summer, and into the fall, and it will almost certainly be here when we ring in the New Year.

Our best tools of defence are still the basics we have been talking about for months. Please continue to wash your hands, stay home when you are sick, maintain physical distance from others, wear a face mask in crowded spaces, stay socially connected, and look out for your friends, family and community as we progress through each stage. We will need each other through every stage of this relaunch and into the future. Our future is in our hands. If we continue to act responsibly and do our best to follow the guidance every day, no matter where we are or what we are doing, we will be able to strike the balance we need between protection from COVID and the social and economic aspects of our health.

EOC ADMINISTRATOR ON-CALL

- **July 6, 2020 to September 5, 2020** the number to call with any questions and/or concerns or information pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic is **1-780-285-0084**
- Our nation members will continue to be engaged and continued efforts of awareness will be ongoing throughout the summer months and into the fall, on ways to live safely with COVID-19.
- Weekly community updates on local radio station each Wednesday in English and Dene by EOC Administrator on-call, and other means of communications such as notices, pamphlets, social media, DTFN Website, as part of Community Communications Plan to maintain scheduled education and awareness campaign during the summer
- Anyone that has been in the infected zones or hot spots for COVID-19 are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 by reaching out to the on-call number or to their Health Services to arrange for testing. You are advised to isolate during the waiting period of test results.
- Any agency or company that are reporting for work in any of our communities are still required to report to the on-call number. They are required to have clearance of COVID-19 meeting AHS criteria by their agency, or company. Written clearance on official letterhead of the agency or company is required prior to entry into any of the DTFN communities.

OFFICE CLOSURES

- All offices remain closed to the public until August 4, 2020
- **If all is well by July 31, 2020, a decision will be made to re-open our Nation Offices starting on August 4, 2020**

STAYING HEALTHY AND SAFE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Core personal public health measures will need to become the “new normal” in order to maximize our ability as a society to control the spread of the virus in the long-term. The

following core personal public health practices are fundamental, and should continue throughout all steps of the COVID-19:

- ✓ **Staying informed, being prepared and following public health advice**
- ✓ **Practicing good hygiene and other infection prevention and control measures (hand hygiene, avoid touching face, respiratory etiquette - coughing into your arm, or tissue that is thrown out immediately after, disinfect frequently touched surfaces). Clean hands with hand sanitizer when on the go.**
- ✓ **Maintaining physical distancing as much as possible when outside of the home (i.e. from non-household members). Keep at least two metres or 6 feet distance.**
- ✓ **Increasing environmental cleaning of one's personal environment**
- ✓ **Staying at home and away from others if feeling ill or symptomatic (i.e. not going to school/work and following public health advice)**
- ✓ **Staying at home as much as possible if at high risk of severe illness**
- ✓ **Wearing a medical mask if available, otherwise a non-medical mask (NMM) or face covering if experiencing symptoms and required to be in close contact with others (i.e. going to access medical care)**
- ✓ **Considering the use of NMM in situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained**
- ✓ **Reducing personal non-essential travel. Limit the number of times you need to leave the house for errands.**

Thank you,

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

Don't get it, Don't bring it, Don't spread it