



Dene Tha' First Nation
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM
COVID-19

COVID-19 CURRENT SITUATION UPDATE

August 13, 2020

Dene Tha' First Nation Chief and Council and The Emergency Management Team (EMT) are continuing to monitor and assess the COVID-19 pandemic and reviewing statistics surrounding the Mackenzie County. The cases within the Mackenzie County continues to rise. We encourage all our members and residents to continue helping us during the pandemic to ensure that each and everyone of you continue practicing Public Health Measures as the possibility of getting COVID-19 infection risk remains. It is still not safe. Please remain alert and cautious when leaving the community; consider traveling out only for essential food and supplies. Return home as soon as you are done.

The DTFN C&C and EMT have agreed to lift the State of Local Emergency as of July 6, 2020 to allow our members to enjoy the outdoors for mental health, well-being of families, and to give you the time to prepare for the potential second wave that is expected in the coming Fall/Winter influenza season. Be aware though as situations change, for example – should a covid-19 case happen in our community, or sudden rise near our communities; the State of Local Emergency can be reinstated quickly to implement safety measures for our communities. The Emergency Management Team continue to meet weekly and monitor the status of covid-19 in the Mackenzie County and to provide recommendations to Chief and Council.

There is an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Administrator on call from July 6, 2020 to September 5, 2020 that members can call if you should have questions, concerns, or for more information about COVID-19. The number to call is **1-780-285-0084**

Alberta Public Health Measures still continue in Alberta as there are hot spots areas of COVID-19 within the province. We encourage all members and residents to stay home as much as possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- **Local Radio Station** – We are happy to tell you that we will have a broadcast radio Announcer on our local radio station daily to make announcements and updates for our communities. We encourage everyone to listen to the local radio station, social media

and DTFN website for information and updates about the local happenings and the pandemic.

- **COVID-19 Ongoing awareness** will continue for members and residents about ways to live safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Disposable masks** are available for distribution, however due to the current situation it was advised that no door to door distribution will be done until it is safe to do so. If you or your family members want disposable masks, please contact your nation health offices for pick up. Towns and cities are passing bylaws to make wearing of masks mandatory. This means you will be required to use a mask when entering public buildings. ***When I wear a mask, I am protecting YOU, when you wear a mask you are protecting ME.*** We are caring for and protecting one another by wearing a mask.
- **#DTFN STRONG** - Posters have been put up all over our communities as a reminder to stay safe and healthy during the pandemic. Please help us keep our elders and children safe during the pandemic.
- **COVID- 19 ZONES OR HOTSPOTS** - Anyone who has been in an AHS watch list zone or hot spots for COVID-19 are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 by reaching out to the on-call number or to your community Health Services to arrange for testing. You are advised to isolate during the waiting period of test results.
- **Mass Gatherings** - Due to the recent increase in cases within the Mackenzie County, the EMT are advising that all mass gatherings in Dene Tha' communities be stopped including:
 - Hand games
 - Indoor Bingos
 - Poker games
 - These mass gatherings increase the risk to members and residents
- **Intercommunity Travel** - It is highly recommended that Intercommunity travel be stopped or limited; this practice will help us to reduce the risk of transmission and spread of the virus.
- **If you are not feeling well, feeling ill, or feeling sick** - you are encouraged to get tested and isolate at home until you have received test results back. Remember to stay home if you are starting to feel sick or have gotten sick.
- **Who can be tested?**
 - Any person who wants to be tested can now be tested, even if they do not have any symptoms.
 - The following groups will continue to receive priority for testing:
 - Any person showing any symptom of COVID-19
 - All close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases
 - All workers and/or residents at specific outbreak sites

- All workers and residents at long-term care and level 4 supportive living facilities.
 - All patients admitted to continuing care or transferred between continuing care and hospital settings.
- **COVID-19 Symptoms** – You should get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. If you have any of these symptoms you are **legally required to isolate for at least 10 days** from the start of your symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer:
 - Fever
 - Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)
 - Runny nose
 - Sore throat
- **If you have any of these other symptoms** - Stay home and minimize your contact with others until your symptoms resolve:
 - Chills
 - Painful swallowing
 - Stuffy nose
 - Headache
 - Muscle or joint aches
 - Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion
 - Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)
 - Loss of sense of smell or taste
 - Conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye

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**
- 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 31, 2020
- If all is well by August 31, 2020, a decision will be made to re-open our Nation Offices

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

Stay Safe & Stay Healthy

#DTFN STRONG