

**DENE THA' FIRST NATION
P.O. BOX 120
CHATEH, ALBERTA
TOH 0S0**



**TELEPHONE: (780) 321-3774
(780) 321-3775
(780) 321-3842
FAX: (780) 321-3886**

DENE THA' FIRST NATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19

**Mandatory Safety Measures and Restrictions in Dene Tha' First Nation Communities
In Effective from: November 27, 2020 to December 18, 2020 (for a period of three weeks)
Chief & Council Directive**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 27, 2020**

On November 24, 2020, the Alberta Government declared a State of Public Health Emergency. In addition to targeted restrictions implemented for parts of Alberta, there are now new mandatory measures to stop the rise in cases of COVID-19. Reuters news outlet wrote on October 9, 2020: "Trudeau says Canada is in second wave of [covid-19] pandemic, urges renewed caution." Since that News release – the second wave of COVID-19 has reached across Canada; the growing health crisis is now impacting Alberta and the provincial government has implemented restrictions that are now in effect. The pandemic is worldwide.

Dene Tha' First Nation Chief & Council and the Emergency Management Team has held a meeting on November 27, 2020 to review the recommendations of its Emergency Management Team (EMT). With careful consideration all the facts were reviewed and the potential impacts to the Nation members in the communities of Chateh, Meander River and Bushe River were identified. The Chief & Council has acknowledged the new restrictions and support the health emergency measures that were announced and in effect now. Our communities continue to have housing shortages and unfortunately because of the shortages many families live in overcrowded houses. These conditions are very concerning especially if the covid-19 infections spread into our communities. For these and other reasons such as persons with underlying health conditions of young and elderly family members; we (Leadership & EMT) are strongly warning everyone about the dangers of covid-19 infections. For the sakes of all those who are close to you and love; be kind and do your part to keep your families, extended families, and friends safe. Dene Tha' First Nation's leadership and the EMT are asking for your cooperation to follow and abide by the Mandatory Safety Measures and Restrictions to ensure the health and safety of every Nation members. There will be NO LOCKDOWN made at this time, and the situation will continue to be monitored and assessed on daily basis until Friday, December 18, 2020.

During the State of Health Emergency – mandatory Safety Measures and Restriction period; we are asking all our members and residents to support our efforts in the interest of keeping everyone safe. Stay home

and only go out when you need food and supplies. We need your help now. Your actions are THE MOST IMPORTANT PART of the SOLUTION during this covid-19 pandemic. These measures and restrictions are put in place to protect you and your vulnerable loved ones. Be aware of those in your families that have underlying health conditions and elders as they are likely to be in most danger if they got infected. The coronavirus disease has created a matter of **LIFE-AND-DEATH** for many people, and it is always important to remain alert!

Public Health Measures and Dene Tha' First Nation Communities: Stop the spread of COVID-19.

- **Gathering restrictions – There shall be NO social gatherings inside your homes. No gatherings are allowed outside areas of your community. Examples of social gatherings include: meetings, training, reception, award ceremonies, luncheons, potlucks, parties for birthday/retirement/baby showers/house & backyard, community meetings, other meetings in person, no visitors allowed inside your home, no poker, no bingo, no hand games, no gym nights.**
 - Indoor close contacts must be limited to people in the same household
 - People who live alone can have up to the same 2 non-household contacts for the duration of the restriction
 - Work and support group meetings are to be done by online meetings with technology such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, etc.
- **Outdoor gatherings maximum of 10 people;** cultural offerings must follow all public health measures, keep your distance and mask up.
- **Wedding and funeral services maximum of 10 people,** no receptions permitted
- **No festivals or events** (including Christmas festivals or any Christmas events)
- **Grades 7 – 12** classroom instruction is available for class sizes less than 10
- **Grades K – 6** School holidays are from December 19, 2020 to January 3, 2021
 - **The first week of 2021: January 4 to January 8 will be learn-at-home for all students**
 - DTFN will continue to monitor for any changes of requirements for school operations made or recommended by Health Canada or Alberta Health Services as it relates to covid-19 concerns.
- **Mandatory Mask Use in all buildings located on-reserve**
 - (Stores, arena, schools, health centres, etc.)
- **Mandatory Mask Use in all indoor workplaces**
 - (Anytime you leave your desk or office space)
- **Faith-based gatherings limited to 1/3 capacity** (hold multiple services, physical distancing, and masking). This measure will help limit exposure, reduce outbreaks, and protect vulnerable attendees

Help Prevent the Spread

- **Practice all Public Health Measures:**
 - Stay home if you are feeling sick
 - Wash or sanitize your hands often
 - Cover your coughs & sneezes
 - Avoid touching your face
 - Keep physical distance of 2 meters/6 feet
 - Wear a mask in public and all indoor workplaces
 - Avoid overcrowded public space
 - Limit the number of people you come into close contact with.

Dene Tha' First Nation Travel Restrictions:

- **NO Intercommunity travel** or visiting between communities will be permitted; this practice will help us to reduce the risk of transmission and spread of the virus. **Reminder: the virus does not move; it is the people that move it.** All essential services will be permitted for school and employment purposes (RCMP, taxis, ambulances, Child & welfare services, nurses, doctors, teachers and all DTFN essential services)
- Anyone that has scheduled medical appointments and their escorts and who are traveling on NPTC medical bus and taxis; it is mandatory that masks are worn at all times. Follow all public health measures while at your appointment. You will be required to self-isolate upon returning to the community for 10 days and monitor for symptoms.
- Non-essential travel is discouraged, stay home and stay local: Anyone that has left the community or local area to places such as Grande Prairie, Edmonton & surrounding areas, Calgary & surrounding areas, Red Deer, Ft. McMurray, Lethbridge & surrounding areas will be required to self-isolate for 10 days and monitor for symptoms upon return to the community.
- All business travel for Chief & Council, and Staff - travel restriction is in effect until further notice.
- Company/Industry Restrictions during COVID-19 Pandemic remains in place for DTFN reserve lands; governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and companies whose essential services workers that are requesting to work in any of our communities are required to report to the on-call number. They are required to have clearance of COVID-19 meeting AHS screening criteria by their Agency, Company or Organization. Written clearance on official letterhead of the Agency, Company or Organization is required prior to entry into any of the DTFN communities and forwarded to the DEM for COVID-19.
- Restrictions during COVID-19 Pandemic - NON-MEMBERS or NON-RESIDENTS are not allowed entry due to COVID-19 restrictions; for additional information and/or questions please call the on-call number **1-780-285-0084**

Isolation & Quarantine Requirements: Legal requirements in Alberta

ISOLATE means remain alone or apart from others to avoid spreading the illness

- **Isolate for 10 days** if you test positive for Covid -19 or have any symptoms such as a fever, cough or sore throat that are not related to a pre-existing illness other health condition
**Children under 18 are exempt from mandatory isolation for runny nose or sore throat but should stay home until well*

QUARANTINE: is a precautionary isolation measure to help prevent the spread of illness. You must stay at home by yourself for 14 days. You need to get someone to do your shopping, etc. You are required to stay home and not go anywhere.

- **Quarantine for 14 days – You are legally required to quarantine** if you have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or if you travelled outside Canada. You may have been exposed but do not have symptoms which may develop. This time allows you to watch for symptoms.
- **Why do we need to isolate or quarantine?** Isolating and quarantining help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the number of people you could infect if you are sick. Both require staying home and avoiding situations where the virus could spread. COVID-19 can take up to 14 days to cause symptoms. Some people who get it only have minor symptoms or do not have any symptoms at all but could still be infectious. By staying home for the 14 days, it lowers the chance of spreading the virus to others, who could be fatally infected. By keeping ourselves at home, we are keeping others in our communities safe. YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH DEPENDS UPON YOUR ACTIONS.

- **If you have symptoms**, take the online assessment to arrange testing or contact your local health clinic.
- **Essential Supplies of Food, water and medical:** If a health order is issued to quarantine a household, appropriate medical attention, food, and supplies will be provided to the family by approved workers. Do not be afraid to reach out for support.

Public Health Orders

- Legally enforceable and fines can be issued for violations in Alberta
More information can be found on the Public Health Orders by following the link:
<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/04afb7ea-dde7-4255-a16f-744f378fe0a0/resource/d9ee39d8-7446-4d61-9714-f3aa84202b3b/download/health-cmoh-record-of-decision-cmoh-order-38-2020.pdf>
- Public Health Order # 38-2020 (attached to the notice)

Dene Tha' First Nation Offices

- The DTFN Offices will remain closed and only essential services staff will be permitted to work. Directors will refer to their rapid response plans and will implement those accordingly.
 - Receptionist will remain in each office during this time.

Directive by Motion 2020-026