

Dene Tha First Nation
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February 16, 2021

Dear DTFN Citizens (members) & Residents of Chateh

Notice of Exposures to COVID-19 in Chateh

This notice is to advise residents of Chateh that exposure to COVID-19 has been confirmed in the community. Considerable efforts have gone into planning and preparing for COVID-19 and there are community supports and measures in place to address the current situation.

Public Health continues to investigate and individuals who are required to isolate have been notified and are legally required to isolate or quarantine for 14 days. For those who are not close contacts, it continues to be important to follow current public health guidelines. We ask that all members to please:

1. Cooperate with the health professionals conducting case management and contact tracing efforts to ensure timely and effective communicable disease control measures.
2. Immediately self-isolate and contact the health centre if you have any flu like symptoms for assessment and testing for COVID-19.
3. Continue to avoid non-essential travel, limit contacts to your immediate household and do not attend any large gatherings. Until the breakout is over avoid inter-community travel and use telephone or video calls to keep in contact with your relatives.

It is understood that this is a difficult time and our continued obedience to these guidelines is important to prevent or limit the spread of COVID-19. Full information on all current public health measures can be found in the attached annex, or at the Alberta Health website here:

<https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>

With active cases in the community, we also want to highlight that the disclosure of personal health information is protected and governed under the provincial *Health Information Act*. This Act identifies the very specific parameters under which health information is protected and prevents disclosure of personal health information outside of the circle of care. We cannot emphasize enough that only health providers within the circle of care team have access to the personal health information of the confirmed cases and contacts of COVID-19 in the community.

Outcomes of the current public health investigation will be shared with your respective emergency management contacts; however, no personal health information will be provided. For the reasons given about people's privacy, we need every person in our community to know how important it is to do your part to help those helping you by listening, asking questions if you do not understand, ask for translation in Dene if you need it, and follow instructions for the full 14 days of isolation when you are issued health order to isolation or quarantine.

Immunization clinics against the coronavirus is underway as scheduled with the oldest persons as priority and moving to next lower age groups by 5 at a time. Example: 95, 90, 85, 70, 65, 60, and so on. When it is your turn, please take the vaccine, it is very important. When more people take the vaccine, the sooner we will create herd immunity. Herd immunity means: "Herd immunity (also called herd effect, community immunity, population immunity, or social immunity) is a form of indirect protection from infectious disease that occurs when a large percentage of a population has become immune to an infection, thereby providing a measure of protection for individuals who are not immune." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/herd_immunity

I know this has been a difficult winter, but it is important to continue to ensure our strong response to COVID-19 continues into the new year of 2021. Help us to keep #Dene Tha' Strong. Keep well and stay safe.

Your cooperation is needed and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Chief James Ahnassay

Cc:

DTFN Council, Emergency Management Team, and Senior Management

Dr. Parminder Thiara
Deputy Medical Officer of Health
ISC, FNIHB Alberta Region

Dr. Chris Sarin
Deputy Medical Officer of Health
ISC, FNIHB Alberta Region

Attachment – Public Health Measures ANNEX