

**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 COVID-19 OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT**

**Mandatory Safety Measures and Restrictions in Dene Tha' First Nation Communities  
Effective from: APRIL 5 to MAY 31, 2021  
Chief & Council Directive**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

On February 18, 2021, Dene Tha' First Nation Chief and Council declared a State of Local Emergency. This State of Local Emergency remains in place as we plan for the lifting of some measures that have been in effect by public health order. The Emergency Management Team will be maintaining a measured COVID-19 response to continue to intervene and manage control of our outbreak by minimizing further spread. Together we have been making a difference, and together we will stay strong in our measures, so we don't lose ground on what we have gained.

Thank you to every member that has limited their contacts, helped control the spread, and done their part in helping us bring the cases down. Now is not the time to relax restrictions, we still need to remain vigilant during the pandemic. COVID-19 remains a global challenge and COVID-19 variants are spreading even more rapidly. We want to remind you of the importance to continue to be mindful of your actions and make sure you continue to follow the measures in place to protect our Elders, and to keep our Nation and our members safe and healthy.

Please be hereby notified that the additional safety measures and restrictions that Chief & Council enacted by **Directive by Motion 2020-026 for Chateh, Bushe River and Meander River will remain and are reinstated.**

These measures will remain in force and effect as we monitor daily the risk levels to our community. When our risk levels are to a degree that we consider your safety no longer in jeopardy, we will consider decisions to make changes to these measures and restrictions and you will be notified. We want you to have confidence in the coming weeks that we are doing all we can to continue to protect you, our members and communities.

We are aware that our additional safety measures and restrictions are over and above public health orders in effect within the Province of Alberta; you are expected to comply with the greater level. 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 member(s).

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 we ask that all members 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 symptoms of COVID19.
3. Wear a mask and practice good hand hygiene; and
4. Continue to avoid non-essential travel, limit contacts to your immediate household and do not attend any public gatherings.
5. Continue to follow existing Dene Tha' First Nation restrictions and guidance on travel restrictions.

## **Mandatory Public Health Measures in Dene Tha' First Nation Communities:**

Adherence to all public health directives of Dene Tha' First Nation and orders and legislation of the province of Alberta; where the Dene Tha' First Nation public health directive is more stringent than that of Alberta, those in and around DTFN communities are cautioned to exercise their discretion while in the communities during the COVID-19 pandemic; the following restrictions and safety measures are in place:

### **INDOOR SOCIAL GATHERINGS:**

All indoor social gatherings are prohibited – public and private.

*(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. House poker, house bingo, hand-games and gym nights)*

- Close contacts are limited to household members only.
- People who live alone can have up to 2 close contacts:
  - these **must be the same two** contacts throughout the duration of the restriction.
  - if the close contacts do not live alone, visits cannot be held at their home.
  - single parents who only live with their children under 18 are permitted to have up to 2 close contacts.

### **OUTDOOR SOCIAL GATHERINGS:**

Outdoor social gatherings are limited to 10 people maximum and must not have an indoor component.

- Backyard gatherings that require movement in/out of homes are not permitted.
- Attendees should remain distanced at all times and follow all public health measures.

### **OUT OF TOWN TRAVEL & VISITORS**

#### **Returning to DTFN Communities and Alberta**

- If you do not have a household in DTFN, you must not stay in other people's homes while these restrictions are in place.
- If you belong to the household, you are permitted to return to the home (e.g., child returning home from post-secondary, high school).

#### **Visitors to Alberta**

- Out-of-town visitors cannot stay in other people's homes while these restrictions are in place, regardless of where they are coming from. While we appreciate this may affect travel plans to visit family, the increase in cases is very serious. These measures are required to stop the spread of COVID-19.

### **WEDDINGS & FUNERALS**

Wedding and funeral receptions are not permitted.

Wedding ceremony and funeral service attendance is limited to:

- 10 people maximum for wedding ceremonies
- 20 people maximum for funeral services, with mandatory masking and 2 metre physical distancing between households

The maximum limit:

- includes the officiant, bride/groom and witnesses.
- does not include funeral service or facility staff, funeral clergy or event organizers who are not considered an invited guest.
- applies to any facility, including places of worship and funeral homes.
- applies to services held indoors or outdoors, seated or non-seated.

This measure will help limit exposure, reduce outbreaks and protect vulnerable attendees.

### **PLACES OF WORSHIP – FAITH BASED GATHERINGS:**

Faith services are limited to 15% of fire code occupancy for in-person attendance:

- Physical distancing between households must be maintained.
- Mask use is mandatory.
- Virtual or online services are recommended.
- Drive-in services where people do not leave their vehicles and adhere to guidance are allowed.

Additional safety measures:

- In-person faith group meetings and other religious gatherings are:
  - not permitted in private homes while these measures are in effect.

### **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. Community Patrols have been implemented and will be utilized for tracking, monitoring, and reporting.
- 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.
- 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**
- All business travel for Chief & Council, and Staff - travel restrictions are in effect until further notice.
- Company/Industry Restrictions during COVID-19 Pandemic remain(s) 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. Please contact the DEM for additional information.

It is important to remember that, while the **vaccine cannot cause infection with the COVID- 19 virus, the vaccine can take up to two weeks to be fully effective and members will need to follow public health measures after receiving their first dose.**

### **Isolation & Quarantine Requirements: Legal requirements in Alberta**

To protect the health and safety of Albertans, public health orders are legally enforceable, and fines can be issued for violations. Even though some restrictions have been lifted, all these requirements remain in effect.

- Minimum mandatory **quarantine for 14 days** for anyone who returned to or entered Alberta from outside Canada or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. **QUARANTINE:** is a precautionary isolation measure to help prevent the spread of illness. You need to get someone to do your shopping, etc. You are required to stay home and not go anywhere.
- Minimum mandatory **isolation for 10 days** for anyone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have core symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition: cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat. **ISOLATE** means remain alone or apart from others to avoid spreading the illness.
  - Children under 18 are exempt from mandatory isolation for runny nose or sore throat but should stay home until symptoms are gone and they feel well.

**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 - Enforcement**

- Legally enforceable and fines can be issued for violations in Alberta. If you violate a public health order, you may be subject to a \$1,000 fine. Additionally, you can be prosecuted for up to \$100,000 for a first offense.
- **Isolating is a legal requirement by Public Health Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020**, and failure to comply could result in major fines. A complaint line is available for the Nation is open for anyone wanting to report individuals who are not adhering to these public health orders. Another option is to go through the provincial reporting line available here: <https://ephisahs.microsoftcrmpportals.com/create-case/>
- Perimeter monitoring remains in place and the health centre has a list of positive cases to determine any individuals not following public health measures. Uncooperative individuals will be contacted by the RCMP and, should individuals continue to not follow public health measures, the RCMP will escalate the response accordingly. This approach protects individual confidentiality and has worked in the past in limiting travel and ensuring isolation orders are followed. Individuals who have cases of COVID-19 will be known only to health centre and RCMP.

### **DTFN ADMINISTRATION DIRECTIVES / INFORMATION:**

- **Grades K – 6 and Grades 7 – 12:** School will remain closed until further notice.
- **Post-Secondary/High School Students Returning Home**
  - If the individual belongs to the household (example: a student returning home is permitted to the home). The student will be required to self-isolate for 10 days and monitor for symptoms. This means

- no visiting in the community and staying at home.
- 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.

#### **Dene Tha' First Nation Offices**

- The DTFN Offices will remain closed and following the “Work from Home order” until the restrictions have been lifted, and only essential services staff will be permitted to work. Directors will refer to their rapid response plans and will implement those accordingly.
  - Receptionists will be available at each office.
- **Working from home mandatory** – DTFN issued a “work from home order” for all its staff, the exception is Essential Services that requires physical presence for operational effectiveness. This is in effect during mandatory restriction until further notice. It will align with provincial restrictions. Directors must refer to rapid response plans. Receptionists will return to the office to direct calls for services.
- Work and support group meetings are to be done by online meetings with technology such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, etc.
- **Mandatory Mask Use in all buildings located on-reserve.**
  - (Stores, arena, schools, health centres, post office etc.)
- **Mandatory Mask Use in all indoor workplaces.**
  - (Anytime you leave your desk or confined office space)
- **Community Monitoring** – each community in DTFN have implemented community monitors during the mandatory safety measures and restrictions period. Their role is for the purpose of tracking, monitoring, and reporting to the EMT.

**Directive by Motion 2020-026 – still in effect**

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**

Sources cited:

<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx>