

March 27, 2020

TAHLTAN NATION COVID-19 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

This morning, the Tahltan Nation COVID-19 Emergency Management Team (TNCEMPT) met again to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the threat to our Territory.

The TNCEMPT would like to again stress, in the strongest terms, that Tahltan Territory is not immune from this pandemic. Everyone must do their part to break the chain of commission, flatten the outbreak curve, and prevent the virus from reaching the Territory.

The time to act is now. What we do today will impact the health of our community in the weeks to come.

Stay home unless absolutely necessary.

Keep six feet or two metres away from everyone at all times. That is about the width of a car or two length of two arms stretched out. Call your loved ones and tell them to do the same.

Remind young people in your life that they can get sick from this virus. More importantly, they can be carriers and cause a lot of harm to parents, Elders, and other loved ones.

We can do this, but we cannot wait one more hour or one more day. **Let's save lives, together.**

Tahltan Nation COVID Website

TNCEMPT understand that our members want to be informed, especially during times of crisis. That is why we have set up a Tahltan Nation COVID-19 Emergency Management webpage - <https://tahltn.org/covid-19/> - where all of our members can inform themselves about COVID-19 and our response.

Red Chris

Despite the mining industry being declared an essential service and despite the fact Newcrest was meeting and exceeding provincial requirements, Tahltan leadership strongly engaged Newcrest leadership and negotiated an extensive package of further preventive measures. These actions seek to proactively protect and support our communities, while allowing Red Chris to operate to ensure Tahltan members can support their families and communities during this challenging time.

Please refer to the Tahltan Nation and Newcrest Joint News Release for more information: that can be found here: <https://tahltan.org/covid-19/>

Elders Update

Our Elders are the most vulnerable during this crisis and it is incumbent on all of us to ensure their well-being during this very challenging time. TNCEMPT encourages each of you to reach out and protect their mental well-being by maintaining your connections with our Elders, either through the telephone, through the window a safe distance apart, or through other virtual means.

The Tahltan Nation has begun an Elders outreach programme in which we are reaching out by phone and checking in with our Elders, both in and outside of Territory.

3Nations Update

The 3Nations COVID-19 Action Plan will be released Monday.

Dease Lake Update

In last day, Dease Lake has organized themselves and identified members for their newly established Emergency Management Committee. The EMC is expected to be operational by Monday and next week will be communicating to the community on how they will organize and manage the emergency we are facing.

Iskut Update

We still have gate monitors at the entrance of our community. If you do not reside in Iskut and are coming to Iskut, please contact Natasha Callbreath at emergencycoordinator@iskut.org or Iskut Emergency Preparedness Facebook page prior to arrival or you will be turned away.

Our Band Manager and one of our Councillors went around getting a video from our Elders (at a safe distance of course) to urge community members to social distance and self isolate when required. What an amazing show of leadership and support by our Elders. A big Mēduh to our Elders for doing that.

Telegraph Creek Update

Our preparation and interventions started weeks ago and we have progressively implemented measures as needed according to government recommendations. We have been in communication with the Telegraph Creek Nursing station to update and implement the pandemic plan and our band is also in discussions with the 3 Nations Emergency Management Team.

Some of the things we have already implemented include: checking all propane levels, shutting down our daycare and rec center, the band office is closed to the public and the nursing station is open for emergencies and pre-planned visits. In addition, we are keeping a bare bones staff at the clinic to reduce exposure risk.

We have put up a checkpoint monitoring gate this week to aid us in getting up to the minute information about who is entering and leaving the community and to be able to ensure all community members moving through the community are up to date on COVID-19 information, current recommendations, and to encourage social distancing and handwashing.

The store hours have changed to accommodate the Elders (giving them time in the store before the rest of the community shops) and to keep them safe. We have put limits on how many members can be in the store at one time. The store workers are wearing their personal protective gear such as gloves to try and keep the exposure risk at a minimum.

We have two extra large food orders stored at the rec centre (used our annual fish camp grocery list), we have brought in thirty thermometers, extra fever and cough meds (arrived in the community two weeks ago and forty more coming). Thirty Easter baskets and chocolates for all ages have arrived. We recently brought in extra pampers and formula, with more recently been ordered.

We have been trying to find more ways to keep Band Members active and happy while remaining isolated like starting online bingo and puzzles etc. We have ordered extra games, puzzles, books and craft supplies.

Finally, we have conducted door to door information outreach - modelling physical distancing.

Employment, Contracting and Tahltan Businesses Update

TNCEMPT understands that many of you will be negatively affected - employment wise - by what is happening. That is why the TCG Director of Contracting and Business and the Director of Employment have been tasked with collating all the services and benefits available to you as a result of this crisis.

Please continue to check the Tahltan Nation COVID-19 Emergency Management webpage regularly - <https://tahltn.org/covid-19/> - to inform yourself of the services and benefits that are available to you.

ENDS