

April 7, 2020

TAHLTAN NATION COVID-19 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Yesterday afternoon, the Tahltan Nation COVID-19 Emergency Management Team (TNCEMT) met again to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the threat to our Territory.

Important Message from Tahltan Leadership:

NON-TERRITORY RESIDENTS ARE CURRENTLY NOT WELCOME IN TAHLTAN TERRITORY

COVID-19 is not just a danger to our **ELDERS**. More and more, **ADULTS** and **CHILDREN** are starting to die because of this virus. **NONE OF US ARE IMMUNE.**

It cannot be stressed enough: **WE CANNOT AFFORD TO ALLOW FOR COVID-19 TO GET INTO OUR COMMUNITIES.**

By the time a person tests positive for COVID-19 in a Tahltan community, 50% of the community will likely have already been exposed. That means we will **LIKELY LOSE MOST OF OUR ELDERS** in that community. This virus will devastate our communities if we allow it to reach our Territory.

Right now, our communities are at a **CRITICAL STAGE**. Right now, we are **MOST VULNERABLE** because confirmed COVID-19 cases are both to the North and South of us.

Prevention is the only thing that stops this virus from reaching our communities and the only thing that will save Tahltan lives.

Please ensure you do the following:

STAY HOME: Unless you must go to work, or you are going onto the land to exercise with those in your household (people you live with).

AVOID ALL NON-ESSENTIAL TRIPS IN YOUR COMMUNITY: Stop going to other communities. Limit the number of times you to high traffic areas such as the store and post office.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: Do not gather in groups. Ensure you stay a minimum of 6 feet away from other people.

WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY: Wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds or more. Soap is the best-known remedy for killing this virus so wash frequently.

COUGH OR SNEEZE INTO ELBOW OR TISSUE: Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Put your tissue in a waste basket. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.

DON'T TOUCH FACE: Don't transfer the virus into your body by touching your face.

SELF ISOLATION: Anyone returning to the Territory must go directly to their home and self-isolate for no less than 14 days – so bring supplies with you. YOU MUST avoid all situations where you can accidentally or unknowingly pass the virus to our community members. Importantly, anyone can be a carrier, not have symptoms, and pass the virus to others. It is strongly recommended that those at higher risk, with compromised immunity including Elders, self-isolate. In other words, stay away from people outside your household. Overall, we ask that people stay at home as much as possible until we get through this severe threat we are faced with for the immediate future.

WEARING A NON-MEDICAL MASK: Wearing a homemade cloth mask in the community has not been proven to protect the person wearing it. Strict hygiene and public health measures, including frequent hand washing and physical (social) distancing, will reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus.

Wearing a non-medical mask is an additional measure you can take to protect others around you. Wearing a non-medical mask is another way to cover your mouth and nose to prevent your respiratory droplets from contaminating others or landing on surfaces. Just like our recommendation not to cough into your hands (instead, cover your cough with tissues or your sleeve), a mask can reduce the chance that others are coming into contact with your respiratory droplets.

If wearing a non-medical mask makes you feel safer and stops you from touching your nose and mouth, that is also good. But remember not to touch or rub your eyes.

It is important to understand that **non-medical masks have limitations and need to be used safely.**

DRINKING ALCOHOL: Alcohol damages your immune system, increasing your risk of catching COVID-19.

EASTER LONG WEEKEND

The Easter long weekend is almost upon us. Thankfully, the Easter Bunny has been deemed an essential service and will be arriving in Tahlitan Territory next week.

Despite this, Tahlitan Leadership implores everyone to respect the rules and regulations surrounding social distancing and refrain from getting together with family over Easter, outside of those you are currently living with.

We have yet to record a positive COVID-19 case. Please continue to do what you are doing.

Tahltan Nation COVID Website

TNCEMT 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 (Newcrest)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new measures put in place at Red Chris please contact either:

Lorraine Callbreath

Email: lcallbreath@redchrismine.ca

Phone: 250-771-4200

Shannon Wilson

Email: swilson@redchrismine.ca

Phone: 604-800-9200 ext 162

Dease Lake Update

Last week the staff at People's Haven contacted every household in Dease Lake to request that a Dease Lake EMC questionnaire be completed. If your household was not contacted, please call the People's Haven at 250-771-5577. The information collected is very important and will help us determine which households and individuals may require support during this pandemic.

We know that Easter is just around the corner and many Dease Lake residents may not have all the Easter treats they usually do. The People's Haven has brought in Easter treats and will be delivering to families later this week. To make sure your children are on the list, please contact the People's Haven or message Tamara Dennis or Elizabeth Melia.

If you would like a sign to post on your door, to let people know whether you are allowing visitors, there are three available to choose from. Please pick them up at the Post Office or the Super A, located on the bulletin board in both locations.

On Tuesday's there will children's crafts delivered to families in Dease Lake. On Thursday's, staff will be doing deliveries and errands for those that are at high risk and do

not have a friend or family member who can do this for them. Arrangements must be made with the People's Haven before noon on Wednesday for your request to be done on Thursday. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this is to assist those who are at high risk to remain safe at home.

Canada Post is allowing only one person at a time in the facility as there is not enough room to allow for two meters distance between people. Please call ahead to see if you have mail to pick up: 250-771-5013. If you would like someone else to pickup your mail, please fill out an authorization form at the post office as CJ is not allowed to do so without this form filled out in advance.

Your Dease Lake EMC understands that it is hard to self-isolate and stay home, especially now that the sun is coming out and spring is arriving. It is ok to go outside, for a walk, fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing etc.; however, please get out and enjoy the spring weather with only those who reside in your household and always practice social/physical distancing.

Starting Monday April 6th your Dease Lake EMC is requesting that if you are leaving Dease Lake, if you have been out of town and are returning to Dease Lake, or if you have someone who is new to your home to please contact:

Kailene Louie at the Peoples Haven: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday at 250-771-5577 alternate number is 250-771-3442

After hours please contact Andrea Louie at 250-771-3032

It is essential that as a community we do not travel unless necessary. Also, if you are returning to Dease Lake or are new to Dease Lake please follow the Self-Isolation guidelines which have been provided via Facebook and Mailouts.

EMC Coordinator is Tina Etzerza - 250-771-3405 or 250-631-2442 - EMCDL@tahltan.org

Iskut Update

The Kluachon store is open Monday to Sunday from 11am to 12pm for Elders, those who are prenatal, families with newborn babies, and those with compromised health and from 12pm to 6pm for the remainder of community members. Only four carts have been placed outside the store to make sure there is only four people in the store at a time. After each person leaves the store the carts are completely disinfected. In addition, gas jockeys have been hired to pump fuel. Thank you to our Kluachon Staff for working so hard to ensure the health and well-being our community members.

The Klappan School staff went back to work last week. They have assigned shifts for employees to ensure social distancing guidelines are being complied with. Staff have been busy working on schoolwork packages and adjusting to online learning programs. Meduh Klappan School for adapting and rolling with these challenging times.

We now have a Supply Runner Team to help shop for people who are in self isolation or quarantine. This also applies to members who do not want to go to the store. Please refer to our Iskut page for the name and numbers of our Supply Runners. We are thankful and grateful that our Headstart has been handing out craft packages to households.

Telegraph Creek Update

We continue to prudently update our community members with critical information, including educating our community members about the importance of social distancing and how deadly this virus is. Our gate monitoring is going well as we continue to monitor who is coming in and out of our community. Bingo is a hit with the locals, and we are working on finding more things for people to do at home during this challenging time.

Employment, Contracting and Tahltan Businesses Update

TNCEMT understands that many of you will be negatively affected - employment wise - by what is happening. If you or a family members employment has been negatively impacted due to the virus, please reach out to the TCG's Employment Director Kody Penner employmentdirector@tahtlan.org. The Tahltan Nation is here to help assist you and your family through these trying times.

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

ENDS