

May 20, 2020

TAHLTAN NATION COVID-19 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

REMINDERS:

The following measures remain in place in Tahltan Territory:

1. Non-territory residents are asked to assist the Tahltan Nation in our efforts to stay at home and to not travel to Tahltan Territory;
2. No hunting, camping, or recreational activity in Tahltan Territory;
3. Essential travel only;

The following personal measures remain in place in Tahltan Territory:

1. 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);
2. Avoid ALL Non-Essential Trips In Your Community: Stop going to other communities. Limit the number of times you go to high traffic areas such as the store or post office;
3. Physical Distancing: Do not gather in groups. Ensure you stay a minimum of 6 feet away from other people;
4. Wash 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;
5. Cough or Sneeze Into Your Elbow or a 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;
6. Don't Touch Your Face: Don't transfer the virus into your body by touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Self Isolation: Anyone returning to the Tahltan Territory must go directly to their home and self-isolate for no less than 14 days – so bring supplies with you. YOU MUST avoid any and 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. **IMPORTANT:** Brucejack and Red Chris employees are not required to self isolate upon returning home, if they return home directly and do not stop anywhere.

EVENT CANCELLATIONS:

Tahltan Leadership would like to announce the following cancellations due to COVID-19:

May:

Healthy Active Tahltan School Events – Dease Lake, Iskut and Telegraph Creek

Iskut Baby Welcoming

TCG Update Meetings

June:

Tahltan Band Chief and Council Election Postponed until end of November

June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 22: Tour de Telegraph

School and Headstart Sports/Awards/Grad Day

TCG Update Meetings

July:

Dease Lake Fishing Derby

Iskut Music Festival

Iskut Literacy Camp

Glenora Literacy Camp

Telegraph Creek Grad

August:

Tahltan Music Fest

Iskut Cultural Camp Kawdy

October:

110th Declaration Celebration

Brucejack (Pretium) Update

Pretium supports the efforts of the Tahltan Nation in keeping its remote communities healthy and safe during the COVID-19 crisis and is pleased to be supporting the Emergency Management Committees of Dease Lake, Iskut and Telegraph Creek with their efforts.

Dease Lake Update

Last week the Dease Lake Emergency Management Committee was able to distribute 160 grocery hampers. Dease Lake Canadian Ranger Patrol and Newcrest Mining were there to help with the sorting and delivering, the help was much appreciated. On behalf of the DLEMC, Kimberley Marion has been organizing community activities; for example, just recently families were provided materials to do community and personal vision boards.

As the weather gets nicer, we notice that people are getting outside more and that is great to see. However, please remember that we are still at risk of COVID-19 and refrain from non-essential travel outside of the Territory. If you do travel outside of the Territory, then you MUST self-isolate for 14 days upon returning home. Please be responsible in your decision making and remember we are all in this together.

Iskut Update

The Kluachon Cafe will remain open only for take out even with the province going into phase 2. It is working well for our community. The 15% off groceries at the Kluachon Store is going great and a helping with grocery price relief.

It is Week 2 of the Dease Lake High School teachers coming to the Klappan School and we are pleased to report it is working well. Thank you to the teachers coming over and helping teach the students!

The remainder of our grocery order was delivered last Friday and was worked on by the ladies to get organized and distributed. Thank you to our team for always working hard!

Our Community Gate remains in place and we are asking people who do not reside in Iskut to please not come to visit. The guidelines we have in place are doing their job – we remain COVID-19 free – and we must remain vigilant. We also want to remind you that if you leave town please notify Natasha. Upon return you must self isolate for safety reasons. We have a runner team and it this information has been posted.

Telegraph Creek

COVID-19 education remains a priority. We continue to do our handouts and following up with phone calls. This week we are handing out goodie packages to our Elders and will take this opportunity to do some outreach regarding “Keeping Themselves Safe”.

Tahltan School has been on a weekly rotating schedule, where students within families are scheduled at the school throughout the week for support with their studies. The school will continue to support their students with this schedule until directed otherwise by School District 87. Internet costs have increased with families due to the on-line learning and gaming. We will provide a subsidy for families with children that are required to use the internet for their home schooling.

The Band Office remains open, with staff working a weekly rotating schedule to continue providing services to our community. The nursing station provides services for emergency situations and some non-emergency situations, on an individual basis, following First Nations Health Authority's safety measures. Each patient call/visit is asked a set of questions; for example, do you have a fever, cough, stomach upset, headache, or have you travelled out of community/territory? The nurse will meet patients at the emergency door of the clinic for appointments. This is due to the strict measures in place during COVID-19. Only emergency patient travel is being processed at this time.

Social programs are active and continue to provide services for the community. Sewing projects, puzzles, Lego, hampers, seasonal projects, bingo, gift packages, are some of the many activities they graciously organise. The Chinese food dinner last week went well, with 200 + dinners prepared. Upcoming events include toy bingo, and flowerpots for the youth to do with their families.

Homemade masks are available: Call the Rec Center at 250-235-3100, or the clinic if you would like one. We have a shipment of soil, seeds, and flowers arriving on Thursday to begin the beautiful spring-summer season. Thank you, staff, for all that you do for our community, it is greatly appreciated.

The Tahltan Center remains well stocked for our weekly supply of veggies, dairy, and meat. The weekly shopping hours for Elders remain in place and is well utilized. Thank you Korena and staff for keeping our community well serviced.

Please call Sheila at the Band Office at 250-235-3151 to inform her of your travel plans outside the community/Territory. This will help track the contact if we should have a case of COVID-19 in communities.

ENDS