



July 8, 2020

COMMUNITY NOTICE: COVID-19 UPDATE

Cases of COVID-19 continue to arise in First Nations across Alberta. We are writing to provide an update on the current confirmed cases, the ongoing active investigations of COVID-19 and our response to date. As of July 7, 2020 a total of 115 cases of COVID-19 have been identified in individuals from 8 First Nations communities in Alberta. These include:

- 70 individuals who have recovered;
- 44 active cases; and sadly
- 1 death.

First, we would like extend our sincere gratitude for the hard work and dedication of all First Nations staff, community leadership, band members and everyone who has come together to respond to this pandemic. In communities managing active cases, community health teams are working with their leadership, Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Health, and Alberta Health Services to support contact tracing, case management and prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus. Through these public health measures, cases and contacts are identified and monitored per the *Alberta Public Health Disease Management Guidelines* for COVID-19.

The health of individuals identified as a case or contact is closely monitored and individuals must adhere to the *Mandatory Quarantine and Isolation: Chief Medical Officer of Health Order 05-2020*. **Individuals are legally required to isolate if they have COVID-19 or quarantine if they are a close contact to someone who has COVID-19.** Public health orders can be legally enforced to protect the health and safety of others. The commitment to stay home and adhere to any orders helps prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keep the community healthy and safe.

Preventing the spread of COVID-19 requires our collective efforts. We must all remain diligent in our practice of public health measures such as restricting gathering size per the Public Health Orders; most cases of COVID-19 on-reserve in Alberta have been related to gatherings of various types. Other key measures include: frequent hand washing, maintaining 2 meter physical distance in public, and wearing a non-medical mask if distancing isn't possible.

The health and safety of First Nation members remains our priority. Thank you again for your patience and support as we continue to work together during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

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