



Norway House Cree Nation
 Pandemic Advisory Team
 Box 250 Norway House, MB R0B 1B0
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Norway House Cree Nation Chief & Norway House Community Council Communique March 20, 2020

The Councils of the Norway House Cree Nation and the Norway House Community Council issue this joint statement to preserve and protect the wellness of our communities. It is our intention to minimize the risk and impact that COVID-19 has on each and every one of our members and residents. We are immediately issuing these directives for our staffs and residents. Communications is key in our wellness. We will manage all communication on our Facebook page of the NHCN @NorwayHouseCreeNation and NHCN Website. We urge all our members to rely on this credible and truthful source of information.

DIRECTIVE FROM NHCN CHIEF AND COUNCIL & NH MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- 1) Dr. Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer of Manitoba; is advising Manitobans not to travel internationally (out of Canada). If any one is returning from an international trip, they are being advised to self isolate for 14 days. He is also reminding Manitobans that not all people need to be tested for COVID-19 and only those showing symptoms will be tested. As of March 18, 2020, there are 8 confirmed cases that were directly related to international travel. (9 presumptive cases that are now waiting for their results). We the community leaders support this advisory and we strongly recommend against nonessential travel outside of the community.
- 2) Public needs to know this is a **HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE**; Pandemic Advisory Team (PAT) has been established to maintain coordinated response to lessen the impact of the outbreak of COVID 19. PAT will be making recommendation to Wayne Anderson, Chief Operating Officer and Clarence Paupanekis, Chief Executive Officer of NHCN for implementation of these directives.
- 3) NHCN Human Resources (HR) will investigate how Band staff can be compensated if they are not working due to sick leave, childcare, and if they have no benefits. HR will develop Pandemic Prevention Sick Policy applicable to Band Employees. HR will track and manage human resource supply. They will track provincial and federal support programs recently announced.
- 4) Single parents that are employed with the NHCN are directed to take immediate leave and attend to their children in the home; they will not be penalized. Policy clarification is required We understand that our Human Resources staff are seeking clarification in this area.
- 5) Effective immediately, all NHCN Band travel is suspended. Staff may be re-assigned to other duties to flatten the curve and reduce risk to our community members. Entertainment Center (EC) is now closed until further notice; staff are requested to be available to attend duties as assigned; Nikan Aschakossak Daycare and Kanachee Awasisak Headstart closed immediately; staff are to report to work to clean and sanitize the building and other duties assigned by PAT.
- 6) All home food sales, bake and rummage sales are prohibited to reduce transmission of germs. York Boat Diner is closed for take out and pick up/delivery only.
- 7) Establish a system to deliver supplies such as groceries, medicine with Headstart, Daycare and EC Staff. Home Support Delivery Team will be led by Flora Cromarty and supported by Beverly Osborne and her staff. Grocery pick up and delivery to vulnerable people as identified by PAT.



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- 8) The stores will continue to have their shelves stocked and will be staggering their hours to allow the Elders and the vulnerable to shop in a safer environment. Temporary store hours will be announced and posted ASAP.
- 9) Playgreen Inn is directed to shut down the beverage room effective immediately.
- 10) **NO SMOKING, NO SPITTING AND NO LOITERING** at public entrances and around public buildings. NHCN security will monitor and enforce this directive.
- 11) Pinaow Wachi Personal Care Home (PWPC) is now **CLOSED FOR VISITORS** – Effective March 17th, 2020. Shared Health Manitoba recommending the immediate suspension of visitors in Long Term Care Facilities in Manitoba. Exceptions for compassionate reasons or end of life will be made on a case by case basis at the discretion of the individual facility managers. At this time all external visitors - no visitors will be allowed in the PCH to protect the residents. Additional security will be added to support the facility; additional cleaning staff will be hired. The PCH is seeking additional health staff to provide care.
- 12) The Norway House Indian Hospital has implemented a **NO VISITOR** policy; patients who are being treated in the hospital will not be allowed visitors. Exceptions for palliative/end of life and emergency cases related to unexpected death and life-threatening illness will be determined on a case by case basis by medical staff. The hospital staff are allowing one escort per patient when going to the hospital. Lab and X-ray will allow one patient in the area at a time unless an escort is required. The hospital personnel are exercising caution and engaging in social distancing. It is our recommendation that screening (triage/screening tool) takes place at both the clinic and emergency doors to reduce risk of human to human transmission. Manitoba Renal Health program (dialysis) will continue to provide service as per status quo.
- 13) NHCN Treatment Access Program (TAP) will assist individuals with out of town medical appointments as some clinics in the province have closed their offices due to the pandemic. All patients (appointments/walk-ins) are required to call (204) 359 8225 to the Norway House Primary Care Clinic to make sure they will be seen. TAP drivers will not provide rides to those who have not called the clinic first. TAP drivers will be asking patients if they called. TAP will implement social distancing within the vehicles by reducing the number of patients per trip. TAP drivers and patients should be proactive and take responsibility of protecting themselves with homemade masks until such time NHCN can supply the PPE. If unable to purchase from retail, Health Division will look at community resources making homemade masks. Health Division will do an inventory of existing PPE supplies within the program areas.
- 14) Norway House Pharmacy will remain open and will be responsible to set up social distancing. They will be increasing their supply as well as delivery to the patients to prevent crowding and long line ups
- 15) Kitisii Yawin Program will continue to provide services for their clients. You can call Debbie Hart-Swanson at (204) 359 6704 or Wendy Moore at (204) 359 8206.



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16) Muchipunowin Program:

- Suspend travel for Muchipunowin in and out of the community
- With the national directive for church closures with the Anglican Church and the United Church of Canada, funeral services to be held at the Imultiplex. The Roman Catholic Church will determine their decision on Friday, March 20, 2020.
- To minimize contact during a bereavement, it was recommended to hold the release, viewing and funeral in one day.
- Maximum capacity at any one time will be 50 persons.
- Security, with gloves, to be stationed at the entrance to hold open the door for thr public to minimize contact on the door handles.
- Please do not attend if you are exhibiting flu like symptoms.
- Avoid brining children.
- Avoid contact, no hugs, no kisses, no hand shakes.
- Avoid contact with the deceased.
- Food and refreshment preparation will be the family's responsibility

17) Health Division Programs continue to remain open and provide services to the community. All nursing, administrative support and frontline staff will educate themselves with self management and recommendations from Federal and Provincial authorities. All necessary equipment will be given such as waterless soap, gloves and masks as soon as supplies arrives.

18) Jordan River Anderson Resource Center has decreased services to the community members; however, the staff will continue to support their clients by delivering supplies and equipment. Respite pick up and drop off will stop until further notice. Planning activities are underway and will be rolled out shortly.

19) For Crisis and Mental Health Well-being, Community Health and Wellness workers, Jack River School, HBO School Counsellors and WhiskyJack Counsellors will provide a 24/7 on-call support and can be contacted after hours at (204) 359 4400. Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm you can call directly to the NHCN Health Division at (204) 359-6704.

20) Jean Folster place will continue to operate within its mandate until further notice.

21) KSMA stopped travel effective immediately. Family Court in Norway House has been cancelled until May 1, 2020. KSMA will focus on providing foster families, family services clients and KSMA staff with information and updates from local public health officials. KSMA will ensure child protection and support to families continue.



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- 22) Social Assistance Issuance: will be issued at staggered dates to ensure we do not have big crowds at stores.
- a) Day 1: March 30th- Disability
 - b) Day 2: March 31st Single Parents and 55+ Years Old Clients
 - c) Day 3: April 1st Single Parents with Children 7 and under
 - d) Day 4: April 2nd Families
 - e) Day 5: April 3rd Singles
 - f) Day 6: April 4th Clients on Supplements
- 23) For the NHCN members who normally reside in the community such as post secondary students and visitors to Winnipeg, arrangements will be made for a bus to transport back to Norway House on Thursday, March 19, 2020. To be clear, this bus is for individuals who have a residence or home in the community.
- 24) Security and FSNO will be increasing their work force capacity; the Safety Officers and the RCMP will increase their random check stops to enhance the safety and well being of the community. Emergency Services will continue to follow protocol and provide service to the community.
- 25) Water will be produced on a 24-hour basis to meet the needs of the community. Water delivery will be from 8 AM – 12 AM. Discussion has taken place with partners such as JNR, Frontier, & Norway House Community Council to dedicate qualified drivers to support quality water in your homes. Water quality testing will continue. Sanitation and Sewage Pump out will increase on as a needed basis.
- 26) Housing completion date has been accelerated with the help of JNR, PDC, with Housing Department as the lead. This will alleviate the pressure of overcrowding in some homes.
- 27) Fuel supply will be monitored by PDC who will consult with all gas suppliers in the community to ensure there is no shortage.
- 28) Dental appointments at both the Mall and HBOIER have been cancelled and will only seeing emergencies.
- 29) Finance will assign cost centre for PAT; all expenditures will be managed by assigned staff member to ensure access to resources is expedient and available.



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The Community Clergy met on Thursday, March 19, 2020 and discussed and determined funeral and church services protocols to provide spiritual guidance to the community through these challenging days. In times of crises and social disruptions, people look to the Church for spiritual guidance and assurance that God, Creator is with us; and indeed, God is with us. We acknowledge and thank our Clergy providing leadership in their settings, providing pastoral care. With that, in closing, we humbly ask to continue praying for one another as we journey through this trial. Ekosi!

PANDEMIC ADVISORY TEAM (PAT)			
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