



2020 COVID-19 Community Notification: `

3 Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19 in the Nass Valley

Date: September 3, 2020

Please be advised that Nisga'a Valley Health has received laboratory confirmation of three (3) positive COVID-19 cases that were tested in the Nass Valley over the weekend.

Due to the confirmation of positive tests and high risk of COVID-19 transmission, Nisga'a Valley Health is requesting that all attendees of any of the indoor services that took place between August 21-25, 2020 continue the 14-day isolation period beginning August 29, 2020.

As the potential contacts are numerous, and NVHA resources are limited, **NVHA is prioritizing testing** to those community members that are experiencing flu-like symptoms.

Symptoms include:	Less common, symptoms can also include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever (temperature over 37.0)• Chills• Cough or worsening of chronic cough• Shortness of breath• Sore throat• Runny nose• Loss of sense of smell or taste• Headache• Fatigue• Diarrhea• Loss of appetite• Nausea and vomiting• Muscle aches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuffy nose• Conjunctivitis (pink eye)• Dizziness, confusion• Abdominal pain• Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>





If you or a family member is experiencing any of the above symptoms you are requested to contact the NVHA COVID-19 Line at 250 633 5048, local 5048. At that time the COVID-19 response reception will assess your individual situation and forward you to the most appropriate team member or book a laboratory appointment.

****Please note testing can ONLY be done through an appointment process. Testing hours are 2:00 – 4:00, seven days a week for the foreseeable future.**

If outside of the Nass Valley, individuals are requested to contact their Health Authority COVID response line and identify as a potential COVID-19 contact experiencing symptoms.

In collaboration with the Nisga'a Lisims Emergency Operations Committee, NVHA has implemented the Nation's Collaborative Pandemic Plan including:

- 1) CONTINUED MANDATORY 14-day SELF ISOLATION FOR ALL THAT ATTENDED SERVICES BETWEEN AUGUST 21-25, 2020 (funeral, memorial and/or Feast) and are NOT experiencing any flu-like symptoms.
August 29, 2020 – September 12, 2020.**

****If symptoms are present there is mandatory 10-day isolation period, or until symptoms are fully resolved (whichever is longer)**

- 2) Public Health Contact Tracing and Active Daily Monitoring of all identified contacts,**

****Individuals may be contacted by either NVHA nursing staff, their Community Health Representative or a member of the Northern Health Authority Pandemic Response Team**

- 3) Priority testing for all community members who are experiencing flu like symptoms,**

- 4) Drive up/walk through Laboratory Testing and Contact Tracing (testing and identifying all potential contacts) in each of the community Health Centers Daily from 2:00 – 4:00 pm (including weekends)**

**** Due to infection control measures, all testing is appointment based and takes place outside of clinic. Please dress for weather if walk through services required.**

***** Reminder that a negative COVID-19 laboratory test DOES NOT confirm individual is not able to develop active illness or transmit the virus.**





VHF	Phone number	Toll free
New Aiyansh Health Center EMERGENCY NUMBER (250) 633 2298	250 633 5000	1-888-233-2212
Laxgalts'ap Health Center EMERGENCY NUMBER 250 (621-3423)	250 621 3274	1-800-991-5667
Gingolx Health Center EMERGENCY NUMBER (250) 326-2345	250 326 4258	1-800-991-5671

- 5) Daily self monitoring for all attendees of the services (all potential contacts will required to monitor and document health status and alert the Health Services of any COVID-19 symptoms)

<http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/CD%20Manual/Chapter%201%20-%20CDC/COVID19-Contact-monitoring-form.pdf>

- 6) Daily Active Monitoring with a Health Professional (either NVHA or Northern Health) for all confirmed cases

<https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/professionals/sites/professionals/files/resources/monitoring-form-case.pdf>

Nisga'a Lisims Government and Nisga'a Village Governments are implementing the following steps to protect the Nation, communities and those most vulnerable:

Reverting back to Phase One of the Nisga'a Pandemic Plan

- Implementation of travel restriction in and out of the Communities
 - o actively monitoring travel in and out of the community through the established check points





- Maintenance of strict isolation to protect the community's most vulnerable, for a period of 14 days from Sunday August 29th, 2020
- Mandatory Social Distancing in all public areas, offices and facilities
- Elimination of all social gatherings until further notice,
- All public access and work areas have clear pandemic protocols,
- Sanitization of all common areas in the community where transmission may have occurred.

Due to the heightened anxiety and the potential for social implications, NVHA is urging communities to maintain confidentiality when communicating any potential contact risks.

Working closely with the NLG Emergency Operations Committee, NVHA will continue to keep the Nation and communities informed of the situation on an ongoing basis.

For further information regarding COVID-19 please refer to the B.C Center of Disease Control's website, as they provide the most reliable and up to date information regarding BC's pandemic.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

Stay safe, and stay healthy.

Brandi Truden-Davis

Chief Executive Officer, Nisga'a Valley Health Authority

