

Emergency Preparedness Committee

COVID-19 EXPOSURE WITHIN THE NASS VALLEY PLAN

Date: January 12, 2021

We know that:

- Approximately 68 individuals residing in the Nass Valley have recently tested positive for the COVID-19 virus; and
- social interactions and close contact resulting from the gathering of people and events promotes the further transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

To help address this situation, the following Plan will therefore apply in each of the four Nisga'a Villages and be in effect from Tuesday, January 12, 2021 to Tuesday, January 19, 2021 (or longer, if the Declaration is extended).

Definitions:

- In this Plan:
 - *"authorized person"* means a person authorized by the Declaration to implement this Plan;
 - *"Declaration"* means the declaration of a state of local emergency made on January 12, 2021, under section 19 of the *Nisga'a Emergency Program Act*;
 - *"essential purpose"* means the following:
 - procurement or delivery of goods and supplies for residents that are deemed by an authorized person to be essential;
 - operation of an essential service for, or provision of an essential service to, residents or for the benefit of residents;
 - conduct of business with a Nisga'a Village Government;
 - attendance at a medical appointment;
 - attendance at work;
 - *"essential service"* means the services set out in the December 10, 2020 "[List of COVID-19 Essential Services](#)" developed by Emergency Management BC, as determined to be applicable to Nisga'a Lands by an authorized person;
 - *"resident"* means a person who is ordinarily resident in a Nisga'a Village.

Travel On and Within Nisga'a Lands:

- Travel to and from each Nisga'a Village is prohibited, except as required for an essential purpose.
- As a result, there shall generally be no inter-Village contact or visiting while this Plan remains in effect.

- Each Nisga'a Village shall have security monitoring, including by authorized persons, at the entrance of the Village.

Mandatory Masks:

- Masks must be worn in accordance with the [USE OF FACE COVERINGS IN INDOOR PUBLIC SPACES \(COVID-19\) ORDER](#), dated November 24, 2020.
- This would require masks in all indoor public settings in each Nisga'a Village.
- Exemptions from the mandatory mask requirement include:
 - o people with health conditions or with physical, cognitive or mental impairments that prevent them from wearing masks;
 - o people who cannot remove a mask on their own; and
 - o children under the age of 12 (although children ages 2 – 11 are recommended to wear masks).

Gatherings and Events:

- No person within Nisga'a Lands may host or attend an "event" as defined in the Provincial Health Officer Order – [GATHERINGS AND EVENTS](#), dated January 8, 2021, in a manner that is contrary to that Order.
- As a result, there are no social gatherings of any size at your residence with anyone other than your household or core bubble, and
 - o visiting one another is generally prohibited, except as required for an essential purpose;
 - o **house parties and other gatherings with friends or extended family are prohibited;** and
 - o parents and care-givers must encourage their children to stay within their premises.
- For most people, their core bubble is their immediate household, but for those who live alone, their core bubble is a maximum of two people you see regularly.

Providing Goods and Supplies:

- Each Village Government may provide goods and supplies that are essential for those individuals who test positive for COVID-19, as well as their immediate family.
- The Salvation Army Food Share program in Gitwinksihlkw is also available to any families who may require this service while this Plan remains in effect.
- Any person who provides goods and supplies that are essential to a household that includes an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 is to leave those goods and supplies at the door and not enter the premises.

Residents Who Test Positive for COVID-19:

- Any resident who tests positive for COVID-19 is encouraged to contact their Village Government, so they may be placed on the list for wellness checks.

Enforcement:

- A person who fails to follow the above could be fined.