



January 25, 2022

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

NEW COVID OFFICE PROTOCOLS IN PLACE AT LTFN OFFICES

Chief and Council has decided that due to a recent potential COVID-19 exposure in an LTFN Office and ongoing concerns about the spread of the Omicron variant, NEW COVID Safety Protocols will be observed for at least the next two weeks.

The NEW COVID Safety Protocols include:

- The Brunswick Street Office will be closed immediately for up to 10 days.
- Regular operations and services will continue through employees working from home.
- Essential services (Health, Education, Housing, etc.) will continue to be provided.
- Masks will be mandatory in all LTFN Offices when employees are in their workspaces.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Passports will be required upon entering any LTFN Office or Facility.

Current restricted access to LTFN Offices will remain in place. Members will need to schedule an appointment to meet with staff. Members, staff, and visitors will be required to 'sign in' when visiting offices, wear a mask, use hand-sanitizer and practice social-distancing.

Chief and Council strongly believes that it is the community's responsibility to help keep everyone safe and that we owe it to each other to continue to practice COVID Safety Protocols.

Members with questions about COVID-19, Omicron variant and health or medical inquiries are asked to contact our Community Nurse Jennifer Coleman at 250.612.8289.

Members with questions about general health are asked to contact Health Manager Tamara Seymour at 250.961.8053.

Members are reminded that Chief, Council and Administration carefully considered the information provided by the Northern Health Authority and the First Nations Health Authority in making all decisions about COVID safety protocols.

Isolation for Cases

- Fully vaccinated individuals must isolate for 5 days since the onset of symptoms and can end isolation after day 5 if they are asymptomatic and have not had a fever for 24 hours. The individual must then wear a mask for an additional 5 days in all settings.
- Individuals under 18 who are not fully vaccinated must isolate for 5 days since the onset of symptoms and can end isolation after day 5 if they are asymptomatic and have not had a fever for 24 hours. The individual must then wear a mask for an additional 5 days in all settings.
- Individuals 18 and over who are not fully vaccinated must isolate for 10 days since the onset of symptoms and can end isolation after day 10 if their symptoms have improved.
- Individuals who are deemed immunocompromised by a clinician may be required to isolate for up to 20 days for increased protection.

Isolation/Monitoring for Close Contacts

Isolation for those who are close contacts is no longer required, even if the person is not fully vaccinated. Individuals should remain vigilant and monitor for symptoms for 10 days after exposure to the positive case. If the close contact develops symptoms, they should be tested right away.

Contact Tracing and Case Management

With the rise in the new Omicron variant of COVID-19, there have been changes to the management of COVID-19 cases and contacts. The goals of CCM continue to be to reduce the incidences of serious illness and death to community members, to preserve our health care system and to minimize the societal disruption to our communities. With higher levels of community transmission, and the increased use of rapid at-home (RAH) antigen testing, contact tracing and close contact notification by public health is seen as a less effective intervention to limit transmission except in high-risk populations where cluster management can help slow the transmission of COVID-19 spread.

Rapid at home vs PCR testing

Individuals are screened for which testing pathway to take based on their individual risk assessment. A positive result from either type of testing is considered a valid positive. Those who test positive rapid at home test DO NOT need a follow up PCR test to confirm the result. It is also NOT recommended to take a secondary test after completing isolation as it may lead to an inaccurate result. Once isolation has been completed and requirements are met, the person should return to work as normal.

Resources

Close contacts and contact tracing (bccdc.ca) <<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/close-contacts>>

Rapid COVID-19 Point of Care Screening Program (bccdc.ca) <<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/rapid-covid-19-point-of-care-screening-program>>

Chief Dolleen Logan

Councillor Helen Buzas

Councillor Josh Seymour

Councillor Dominic Frederick

Councillor Crystal Gibbs

Councillor Marcel Gagnon

Executive Director – Joe Gosnell