



KWAKIUTL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM

97 TSAKIS WAY, P.O. BOX 1440, PORT HARDY, B.C. V0N 2P0
TEL: (250) 949-6625 FAX: (250) 902-2246 EMAIL: eoc@kwakiutl.bc.ca

Kwakiutl Emergency Operations Update

January 3, 2021

Gilakas'la

We, Chief and Council, and the EOC would like to thank each and every one of you who have continued with your commitment in keeping our community safe. We have been very fortunate these last 11 months!

Unfortunately, COVID-19 lives and goes wherever it wants and it has decided to be in our community....for the time being. We regret to inform our community that currently we have one positive case. Having COVID-19 in our community is to be expected but if we continue to stay within our immediately household only, we will be able to eliminate the virus from our community. Chief and Council and the EOC want to reiterate our need to be kind to each other during this difficult time and to remain committed to having only your immediate household in your home. There is to be no visiting between homes, siblings, friends – NO ONE! We cannot stress this enough---we need to be vigilant! Do not let anyone in your home who does not live in your house.

Therefore, please be advised of the following:

Positive Covid-19 in Tsaxis:

- One community member has tested positive for Covid-19
- Contact tracing is underway
- Individuals identified by contact tracing will be contacted by Island Health and provided with instructions for self-isolation and testing.
- Health Centre staff will provide supports that the family cannot provide and will monitor the community member's well-being

Security:

- For a two-week period starting January 4, 2021 the security check point will be in place 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- The Wagalus School check point will not be open to vehicle traffic and the Thomas Point entrance will be closed
- Every vehicle entering the community will be stopped and asked the following:
 - Names of permanent resident

- License plate number
- If the person is an essential service provider – you will also be asked the reason why you are accessing our community, address where you are going and for how long
- Residents must have their vehicle pass
- If there are non-residents in the vehicle, they will not be permitted past the checkpoint
- Staff and essential providers will be provided with a pass that clearly identifies them as such
- Staff and essential providers will be permitted entry for work, deliveries and supporting elders only
- Using a staff pass to visit community members is not permitted
- Please remind family members that the community is closed at this time and that they will be turned away at security if they attempt to visit
- The security check point will be video recorded for the safety of security staff

Office Closure:

- The band office is closed for the next two weeks for in-person appointments, but staff will be working from home
- All Health staff continue to work from home and are available to answer your calls

Kwigwis Daycare and Wagalus School will maintain their regular operating schedule

Non-medical information about **COVID-19** is available 7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., seven days a week at 1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319). Visit **bc.thrive.health** to download the **COVID-19** BC Support App or conduct a self-assessment. The **BC Centre** for Disease Control is the source of truth for province-wide information, including current COVID-19 case counts.

Health Mandate Compliance:

- Please be advised that RCMP will be called to enforce the current health guidelines mandated by the B.C. Public Health Officers
- If you witness unlawful gatherings, or visitors who should not be here, it is your responsibility and right to call the RCMP at 250 949-6335.

If you need to get tested – call 8-1-1 nurse who will assess whether you need testing. Or call 1 844 901-8442.

PLEASE make sure to fill out Your Plan so that you are prepared.

Mouth Rinse / Gargle Testing

Individuals (ages 4+) with COVID-19 symptoms can be tested using a gargle test or a nasopharyngeal swab. Both are good options and will tell you if you have COVID-19. The gargle test method involves swishing and gargling sterile salt water and spitting it into a collection tube.

Before calling to book an appointment, please use the self-assessment tool at bc.thrive.health to determine if you or your child need a COVID-19 test.

If a test is recommended, call **1-844-901-8442** to book an appointment (daily 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)


Individuals wanting the option of having a saline gargle test need to review the instructions before coming in for testing, as there is some preparation required.


- For younger children, practice the swish, gargle and spit technique using water at home at least two hours before going to the collection centre.
- One hour prior to the gargle test, do not eat, drink (including water), chew gum, vape or smoke.
- Everyone at appointment must wear a mask


Please see www.islandhealth.ca, click "COVID symptoms and testing" and scroll down for a video on what to expect for children, and/or instructions for adults/youth (13 – 18)


Although gargle testing is available for those ages 4 and up, please note that "rapid testing" is not available for the gargle test; may take 24 – 48 hours. Rural indigenous community members are eligible for rapid testing, so please indicate in your assessment if you live on-reserve.


Remember these **golden rules** to keep each other safe in our new normal:

 Stay in your bubble, with those that live in your home.

 Keep a 2-metre distance

 Wash your hands often

 Wear your mask in all indoor public places, and where physical distancing from those you don't live with is difficult. Your mask must cover your nose and mouth, snug to your face.

 Stay home and away from others if you have cold or flu symptoms

More info: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/.../covid-19-provinci.../bc-restart-plan...>

First Nations Health Authority Information on the COVID-19 Pandemic

<https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus>

What You Need to Know about the Covid-19 Vaccine

<https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-covid-19-vaccine>

"Take Care of Each Other" – that is the message from the FNHA's Dr. Shannon McDonald. As infections continue to surge, we need to redouble our efforts to flatten the curve, while being calm, kind and safe.

The FNHA is continuing to work with provincial and federal partners to actively monitor and respond to the pandemic. We have created these pages to help BC First Nations people and their healthcare providers and community leaders get the information they need to deal with the challenges posed by the pandemic and keep themselves and others safe.

This is not the time to lower our guard against COVID-19. We need to continue to protect each other, especially our Elders and people who are vulnerable, through physical distancing and handwashing. Stay strong and stay the course during this pandemic – however long it may take.

Government of British Columbia

December 18, 2020

We've put a pause on events, gatherings, and non-essential travel to protect everyone during this storm surge. When it feels most difficult – we need to stay united. Let's make an impact today through our own personal actions.

B.C. COVID-19 update: 44, 776 total cases and 713 deaths since the start of the pandemic. There are currently 10,009 active cases <https://news.gov.bc.ca/23353>


 <http://gov.bc.ca/COVID19>

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

 COVID-19 financial supports www.gov.bc.ca/covidgovernmentbenefits

Non-medical Qs

 Call 1-888-COVID19

 Text 604-630-0300 Medical Qs only 811

OUR FAMILY SAFETY PLAN

This document will give you some ideas on developing a household safety plan for the covid-19 pandemic. We encourage you to develop a household plan and share with your family and back-up person. **It IS IMPORTANT to remember that if you get sick and are hospitalized, you will be alone. And, if your child is sick, only one parent will be permitted to be with them.**

Our Names in our home:

Mother/Father: _____

Children: _____

In our household, who is the one designated person who will do our shopping and errands:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

If we get sick and cannot go out, who do we have as a back-up to get out essential needs such as food and medicine?

1. _____ Phone number: _____

2. _____ Phone number: _____

If Mom or Dad gets sick, who will look after our children?

1. _____ Phone number: _____

2. _____ Phone number: _____

If one of our children get sick and sent to hospital, who will look after the rest of the family?

1. _____ Phone number: _____

2. _____ Phone number: _____

Who will provide food for us?

1. _____ Phone number: _____

2. _____ Phone number: _____

What is our plan for self-isolation?

What is our plan if we are required to quarantine?

Who do we call if we get sick?

1. _____ Phone number: _____

2. _____ Phone number: _____

What can we do to help each other?

Important Phone numbers:

Name: _____ Number: _____

Name: _____ Number: _____

Name: _____ Number: _____

Name: _____ Number: _____

Name: _____ Number: _____

