



## **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF**

### **KWANLIN DÜN FIRST NATION**

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May, 2020

**To All KDFN Citizens**

**RE: COVID-19 Update**

I hope this message finds you well and that you have been able to enjoy some of our beautiful spring weather.

Today the Yukon Government released its plan for easing COVID-19 restrictions. This plan includes four phases, with each phase rolling out over time. Yukoners have been in Phase 0 for the last few months and we are now moving to Phase 1.

Phase 1 includes:

- gradual loosening of public health measures while keeping public health and safety as the top priority
- borders will remain closed to non-essential travel
- physical-distancing measures will be relaxed to allow to allow contact between you and one other household
- restrictions may be eased for restaurants to open patios at 50% capacity to maintain physical distancing
- campgrounds will open following public health guidance
- hospitals will begin offering non-urgent and routine service
- restrictions may be eased for funerals and religious services based on the public health assessment
- for more information go to [www.yukon.ca/covid-19](http://www.yukon.ca/covid-19)

As the restrictions are eased, we must continue to do our part to keep our community safe. Every single person in Yukon has a part to play in stopping the spread of COVID-19. This deadly virus is not gone and it does not discriminate. It has hit people from all walks of life, around the globe, and we still do not know the full impact this disease is having on our children. Until a vaccine is found, we must remain vigilant. Each of us must follow the public health measures or we could easily fall back to Phase 0.

KDFN is currently reviewing the plan, for potential impacts on programs and services, and will have more information in the coming days. I know there have been many calls

about reopening Dusk'a Learning Centre and resuming recreational programming. We realize this is not an easy time for anyone and it has been particularly hard on parents taking on the challenge of home-schooling. We see the importance of these programs and we are aware of the impacts these closures are having on families during this critical time, but we must take the time to do safety risk assessments, as we restart these programs, to ensure our children, staff and community remain safe.

We are a social community and we miss our interactions but we do not want to return to Phase 0. Please do your part to keep us moving through each phase so we can all return to normal.

Until there is a vaccine, we must always continue with these 6 principles.

- Stay (6 feet away) from everyone who is not a member of your household
- Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer
- Stay home if you are sick
- Do not gather in groups of 10 or more and always stay 6 feet apart from others
- Limit travel to rural communities
- Self-isolate, for 14 days, when returning to Yukon, from travel, or if you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19

We also wish to express our appreciation to the Yukon's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Hanley for guiding us through this pandemic. We know an approach based on science and medical advice from across the country, is hard to understand, at the best of times, but Dr. Hanley helped us realize the impacts this could have in our communities and drove home that we are all in this together.

I would like to thank our citizens for following the public health measures and for continuing to do so as we move through these difficult times. Please be mindful, it is our own personal actions that will determine whether we can move through the plan phases and into a returned sense of normalcy.

Shaw Nith'an

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Chief Doris Bill