



## April 15, 2020

### Nishnawbe Aski Nation COVID-19 Update

- Confirmed COVID-19 cases: 36 in Thunder Bay, 42 in Timmins Region, 4 in Dryden, 2 in Red Lake and 1 in Sioux Lookout.
- We need to ensure that messaging around public health measures and physical distancing are being taken seriously in our communities. Each community must be as vigilant as ever and cannot relax the measures that are in place.
- **If someone suspects they have symptoms of COVID-19, it is very important that they not to go to the nursing station without getting instructions first from the nurse over the phone or through telehealth.**
  - NAN is developing an infographic on this to help remind members – please check the website regularly for updated infographics
- Everyone must act like they have COVID-19 – this is not an extraordinary measure, but a measure that every person is being asked to practice.

### Funding

- The federal government announced that it is providing \$129.9 million specifically for Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories (N.W.T).

### NAN Trilateral Table

- The weekly Trilateral Table call with Canada and Ontario ADMs took place April 14.
- These calls are valuable places to raise issues that NAN becomes aware of through the NAN COVID-19 Task Team, through NAN Chiefs call and through Tribal Councils and Health Authorities.
- As we have heard on the FNIHB Update call, neither level of government has been able to clearly articulate their plan to respond to COVID-19 in NAN communities.
- The NAN COVID-19 Task Team worked very hard to come up with a tiered response plan for all phases of COVID-19 response in communities. NAN shared this plan with both levels of government.
  - This plan can be customized according to region and at the community level.
- NAN is seeking commitments from Canada/Ontario to work with us to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly outlined through this plan. So far, the plan has been well received and will be circulated to the NAN Chiefs.





## **Federal Announcement on Rapid Testing**

- Health Canada has approved a new rapid test for COVID-19 that can produce results in under an hour, which is expected to alleviate the pressure on public health laboratories and help circumvent testing kit shortages.
- An Ottawa-based company (Spartan Bioscience) received approval over the weekend and will be ready to start shipping tests for the federal and provincial governments.
- After talking to both Canada and Ontario, these are not ready for use in communities yet.
- It is very important to know and understand that there are limitations with COVID-19 tests (including the possibility of false negatives) and that the tests are not replacements for social distancing/isolation measures.
- NAN has commitments from both Ontario/Canada to work with us to understand exactly how and when they will be available for use in communities.

## **Pandemic Planning**

- Pandemic Planning is very important at the community level because it creates a structure that guides progress. Along with a government response, each First Nation needs to be prepared.
- NAN is asking all communities who need assistance with Pandemic Planning to email [\*\*emergency@nan.ca\*\*](mailto:emergency@nan.ca) so that we can connect you with Team Rubicon.
- If your community already has a Pandemic Plan developed, we ask that you send your plan to [\*\*emergency@nan.ca\*\*](mailto:emergency@nan.ca). This so that NAN knows what your plan is and how to best assist your community in its operation and implementation.

## **NAN COVID-19 Task Team**

- The NAN COVID-19 Task Team includes: Elders, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Emergency Management Experts.
- **Mental Health & Substance Use Working Group** – is working with Dalton & Associates to set up a centralized mental health intake process for NAN communities during the time of COVID-19. This is to supplement already in place mental health and addiction services.
- Modelling data for NAN territory – WAHA and SLFNHA have already started working on this for their regions, but there is no specific timeline for when this work will be completed.

## **Funerals**





# COVID-19 BULLETIN

- ## NAN Legal Services & NAN Justice

- ## Nishnawbe Aski Police Services - NAPS

- ## Infrastructure

- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is working directly with communities to assess surge infrastructure needs and the temporary repurposing of existing infrastructure.
- ISC is offering support for the repurposing of infrastructure in community as well as support for the purchasing of necessary supplies, such as cots.



**Send all inquires regarding COVID-19 to [emergency@nan.ca](mailto:emergency@nan.ca)**

[www.nancovid19.ca](http://www.nancovid19.ca)



# COVID-19 BULLETIN

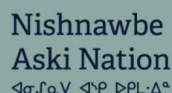
- ## Education

- ## Communications

- Deputy Grand Chief Fox will be on Wawatay Radio on Thursday at 1:05 pm EST.
- COVID-19 Tools and Resources are being translated into Oji-Cree, Ojibway, and Cree to assist the communities in spreading awareness and public health messaging on COVID-19. They are posted on the NAN website under COVID-19 Tools and Resources as they become available.

## Urban Community Members

- NAN has posted specific information for members living off-reserve in urban centres across northwestern Ontario on the NAN website.
  - This includes how to find shelters, food banks, social and mental health services, as well as Indigenous organizations that can assist.
- Please continue to access our website as we are constantly updating it with the most up to date information: [www.nancovid19.ca](http://www.nancovid19.ca)



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# COVID-19 BULLETIN

**NEXT CALL: Friday, April 17, 2020 | 1p.m. EST/ 12p.m. CST**



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