



March 13, 2020 – Updated March 18, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: BLCN Membership
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY NOTICE 2
COVID-19 Response and Measures

Atamiskâtinawaw Amiskosâkahikan Nêhiyaw Peyakôskân Kihtehayahak, Niwâhkômâkanak ekwa Wici-atoskemakanak – Greetings Beaver Lake Cree Nation Elders, Relatives and Colleagues;

As you are all aware by now, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a pandemic¹. Further, the Government of Alberta declared on March 17, 2020 a State of Public Health Emergency. As our Nation complies with the WHO recommendations **to limit transmission or the possible transmission of COVID-19**, and to protect our vulnerable population e.g. elderly, and immuno-compromised, the decision has been made, **until further notice** to:

1. **Close** the Administration and Health Services buildings to the public. The phone lines remain operational, but staff is limited. If you require immediate assistance and/or it is a non-medical emergency, please contact the Director of Emergency Management (DEM) – Dylan Landstrom at 780-404-6541, and he will direct your call to the appropriate personnel.

As we work to coordinate and implement measures to protect the health and safety of our Nation, we will keep the following essential services operational, with limited staff:

2. Water Delivery
3. Public Works
4. Emergency Response – Fire Department and Security, and;
5. Busy Beaver Store – Please note the directive of Chief and Council, limiting store hours and protocols as follows:
 - 5.1. Effective **March 19-22, 2020** the Busy Beaver Store will be **open** to the **general public** from **9:00 am-6:00 pm** and will enact the following protocols:
 - o Maximum 5 customers at a time in the store, at any given time
 - o No one under the age of 18 years old
 - o The store will close every hour for 15 minutes to sanitize/disinfect surfaces
 - 5.2. Starting **March 23, 2020** the Busy Beaver Store will be **closed** to the general public, including off-reserve members, but will remain open to on-reserve members from **10:00 am-2:00 pm** and will enact the following protocols:
 - o Maximum 3 customers at a time in the store, at any given time
 - o No one under the age of 18 years old
 - o The store will close every hour for 15 minutes to sanitize/disinfect surfaces

¹ Pandemic: a virus that is occurring on a national or global scale.

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BLCN employees **not** providing essential services are expected to work from home and to comply with all social distancing recommendations as provided by the Alberta and Canada Public Health agencies.



All frontline employees who continue to work in the Nation providing essential services, will require daily self-screening, and testing prior to returning to their duties. You all must continue to monitor your health and report to your supervisor if you are experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms. Please refer to the BLHS guidelines for screening/testing.

In addition, we are reminding you that the **Alberta Ministry of Education has closed all schools indefinitely.** This includes the Amisk Community School.

Between 30 to 70 per cent of the Canadian population could become infected with the COVID-19 virus, according to federal Health Minister Patty Hajdu. We have confirmed that there are people being tested in the Lac la Biche area for the virus. However, at this time there are **NO** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Lac la Biche area, this includes the Nation.

If you have any symptoms, regardless if it is COVID-19 confirmed or not, you must self-isolate. Do not go to the Health Center, or Hospital as this will further spread the virus. Once you have self-isolated, please follow the guidelines on next steps as provided by the Health Services. If you are experiencing shortness of breath, or respiratory distress/difficulty, please seek medical attention.

We want to take this time to reassure you that the BLCN Chief and Council, and Administration are working to ensure that we have the required resources on the Nation in the event there is a full quarantine or isolation of the community. We assure you that proactive measures are being put in place. Finally, we give thanks to the staff who are risking their health and safety to ensure the Nation remains safe.

Updates will continue to be provided on the BLCN and BLHS social media pages, e.g. Facebook, website, and by email distribution to the Nation employee email list, and when required, door to door delivery.

During this time, you may contact our DEM – Dylan Landstrom at 780-404-6541 or our Health Director – Marilyn Gladue at 780-623-1546 if you require support. All BLCN staff will be in contact during this time and will work together to meet community needs as they arise.

Ekosi Pitama,

Chief Germaine Anderson
Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Treaty No. 6

cc. Councillor Charlene Cardinal, Councillor Shirley Paradis, Councillor Felix Lewis

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