
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council – Carrier Sekani First Nations



Carrier Sekani Tribal Council Advisory on COVID-19

Effective as of today- Friday, March 13, 2020

The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council is advising our communities, staff/contractors and partners to avoid any non-essential travel, non-essential meetings and large gatherings in excess of 250 people. “At this time, the Public Health Agency of Canada has assessed the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as low for the general population in Canada but this could change rapidly. There is an increased risk of more severe outcomes for Canadians:

- aged 65 and over
- with compromised immune systems
- with underlying medical conditions

While a COVID-19 outbreak is not unexpected in Canada, our public health system is prepared to respond. The Public Health Agency of Canada, along with provincial, territorial and community partners, continues to reassess the public health risk, based on the best available evidence as the situation evolves.”

(<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html> March 13, 2020)

In British Columbia, the First Nations Health Authority states, “Attending large gatherings increases the risk of exposure and therefore the chance of participants getting infected and carrying the virus home to their communities and passing it on to their more vulnerable friends and family, particularly Elders, seniors and those with other health conditions.

The FNHA recommends social distancing, forgoing usual greetings (such as handshakes, hugging, kissing etc.), consideration of virtual gatherings and importantly staying home if you are experiencing any illness.”

(<https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-advising-communities-to-avoid-large-gatherings-and-unnecessary-travel> March 12, 2020)

BC Minister of Health has declared that “Effective [Thursday March 12, 2020], we also directing all event organizers to cancel any gathering larger than 250 people. This includes indoor and outdoor sporting events, conferences, meetings, religious gatherings or other similar events. This threshold has been selected, as it is much easier to maintain important social distancing to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

As a result, Tribal Chief of Carrier Sekani Tribal Council is issuing the following as our immediate response measures to COVID-19 to protect our staff, contractors and member nations:

Business Travel and Meeting Safety Protocol In Effect March 13th, 2020

- For our staff, effective today, all non-essential business travel is cancelled. This does not affect your commute to your home office. Please direct approval requests with specific details of your planned essential business travel to John Lewis, General Manager at GeneralManager@cstc.bc.ca or (250) 562-6279 ext 202
- All in person meetings with more than 10 participants in the workplace are cancelled for two weeks, while there may be updates coming day by day from FNHA, BC and Canada health officials. This includes, but is not limited to, meetings that we may host, external events that our member nations may wish to host in our premises, and internal meetings and gatherings. We encourage you to use video or audioconferencing facilities where appropriate.
- Our staff and contractors will not be attending any external business events, conferences or other large gatherings regardless of location.
- CSTC would like to assure you that everyone's collective health remains our top priority, as we continue to refine best practices in our office. It is important to utilize the highest standard in infection control procedures.
- CSTC will continue to keep our member-nations updated in coming weeks.
- We encourage our members to take precautionary measures and practice social distancing, washing hands and using hand sanitizer.
- It is most important that we all do our part to help slow the spread of this virus. By educating ourselves with the latest scientifically driven information along with advised protocol, we can make a difference.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your health or are experiencing illness, please call *811.

Please take the time to become informed daily through reliable links like the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel)) and again if, anyone concerned that they may have been exposed to, or are experiencing symptoms of the novel coronavirus, should contact their primary care provider, local public health office, or call 8-1-1.

Resources:

1. Dix, Adrian. BC Government. "Joint Statement on update on new and existing COVID-19 cases in B.C..". March 12, 2020. Accessed March 13, 2020. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0077-000484>
2. First Nations Health Authority. "FNHA Advising Communities to Avoid Large Gatherings and Unnecessary Travel". March 12, 2020. Accessed March 13, 2020. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-advising-communities-to-avoid-large-gatherings-and-unnecessary-travel>
3. BC Center for Disease Control Provincial Health Services Authority. "Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)". March 11, 2020. Accessed March 13, 2020. [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))
4. Public Health Agency of Canada. "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)". March 11, 2020. Accessed March 13, 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Contact Patricia Prince at communicationofficer@cstc.bc.ca or (250) 562-6279