



Metlakatla First Nation

COVID-19 Update - April 9, 2020

Message from Metlakatla Governing Council

With reports of COVID-19 coming into our communities, it is more important than ever that everyone takes the appropriate measures to protect themselves and their loved ones from this deadly virus. Already 50 people in BC have lost their lives to COVID-19 and it is each and everyone's responsibility to do what must be done to stop that number from growing.

For those living in Metlakatla, we cannot stress enough the importance of *staying in the community* and not welcoming or inviting outsiders to come over. Metlakatla is a small and tight knit community and other areas have shown how quickly COVID-19 can spread in such areas, causing undue stress and illness to all. The executive committee has put an order in place restricting any non-residents, including the vast majority of staff, from coming to Metlakatla to protect our elders and our families and we ask that you respect that order. All people, regardless of where you live, should be practicing appropriate social distancing and frequent hand-washing to further reduce the spread. This means staying at least six feet away from those outside your home at all time and only socializing in-person with those you live with. With the Easter weekend upon us, avoiding in-person contact with family is a difficult request to make, made somewhat easier with available technology such as video messaging and social media, but it is a necessary step to ensure these challenging times end sooner rather than later.

Please know that these decisions and requests are not made lightly, but we do not want any of our members or our staff to have to suffer the discomfort of this illness or, worse yet, the sadness brought about by the loss of a loved one. *Stay safe and we wish you all a happy Easter.*

Executive Committee Decisions

1. Non-residents will not be permitted to enter the community and will be told to leave.
This will be monitored and enforced.
2. Only health staff from Prince Rupert will be permitted in Metlakatla as required for assessments and assistance. Other staff living in Prince Rupert are not to enter the community.
3. Reception services are ongoing. However, the Band Office will remain closed to the public.
4. The Social Development Program and Health Department are reaching out to residents to ensure necessary groceries and supplies can be purchased and delivered. Please call the Health Centre for information.
5. Until further notice, regularly scheduled ferry service to the community is suspended. This is to further reduce the chance of spreading the virus.

Assistance for individuals experiencing COVID-19 Financial Challenges

Both the Federal and provincial governments have made available significant assistance to those who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 virus and business closures. These measures include assistance with rent, deferment of payment for ICBC and BC Hydro, a \$1,000 Provincial Emergency Benefit for workers who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19, and a \$2000 per month from the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#CATC>
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individuals>

Look for regular updates on the Metlakatla First Nation Facebook Page and at www.metlakatla.ca.

Please share this with those who may not have access to Internet or Social Media.