



# Metlakatla First Nation

## COVID-19 Update - May 29, 2020

### Message from Metlakatla Governing Council

As May turns to June, Metlakatla is beginning to loosen the restrictions in place while beginning to prepare for a staggered and *closely regulated and monitored* return to work for our employees.

**Beginning this week**, those residents who are able to go into Prince Rupert for groceries are encouraged to do so, as grocery delivery will be limited to elders and those physically unable to make the trip. To accommodate this, there are a few ferry runs that can handle a limited number of people safely while maintaining physical distancing. We ask that each household without a boat designate one person to go to town next week. For more information, please contact the Metlakatla Health Department.

**Beginning the week of June 8**, there will be scheduled ferry runs designed to allow a minimal number of staff to attend the office and bring residents to Prince Rupert. The morning ferry from Prince Rupert will be reserved for staff, the morning return ferry will be reserved for Metlakatla residents and the opposite will be true for the afternoon return trip. There will be designated times for each run and the ferry will be cleaned between each run. Look for the schedule of ferry runs next week. Ferry staff will be required to wear all appropriate personal protective equipment.

**ANY STAFF OR RESIDENTS WHO DO NOT ADHERE TO PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO BOARD THE VESSEL FOR FUTURE RUNS.**

While some staff will be returning to the office on June 8, the office will remain closed to the public while healthy best practices and appropriate measures are put in place and adhered to.

While restrictions are loosening, we encourage everyone to continue practicing physical distancing, frequent hand-washing and avoiding leaving the house if you have any cold-like symptoms.

We appreciate your continued patience and understanding.

**Stay safe and have a great weekend everyone.**

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#### **Executive Committee Decisions (week of June 1)**

1. Non-residents will not be permitted to enter the community and will be asked to leave.
2. Only essential service staff from Prince Rupert will be permitted in Metlakatla.
4. Reception services are ongoing. However, the Band Office will remain closed to the public.
5. Grocery and supply deliveries for Elders will be brought to the community at 2:30 p.m. on Monday and Friday.
6. Ferry service for those needing access to Prince Rupert for groceries is proposed to take place three days per week.
7. The Community Van will not be operating.

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### **Assistance for individuals experiencing COVID-19 Finance Challenges - PLEASE NOTE CONDITIONS**

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](http://www.metlakatla.ca).**

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