



Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

First Nation

Public Health Alert

COVID-19 Variants of Concern February 18, 2021

Dear Members of Pikwakanagan First Nation,

As you are aware, COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOCs) are circulating within Ontario. We are writing to you today to provide updated information and public health recommendations regarding COVID-19 VOCs.

At least one of these variants, B.1.1.7 (the “UK variant”) is thought to be 30-50% more transmissible than those already established in Canada and there is some evidence that it can cause more severe illness, resulting in more hospitalizations and deaths. This variant can spread very quickly from people who do not know they have it (asymptomatic people) and can cause a rapid increase in cases in a short period of time. In January 2021, an outbreak of B.1.1.7 in a Barrie, Ontario, long-term care facility saw almost every resident of the facility infected.

More recently, this variant was detected during the week of February 8, 2021 in St. John’s, Newfoundland, resulting in a lockdown and closure of workplaces, schools, and non-essential businesses to control the spread of this variant.

Given this evolving situation, we are making the following recommendations:

- **DO NOT VISIT OTHER PEOPLE’S HOMES**
- Indoor capacity is up to 10 people and should attempt to maintain to your own household and close family.
- Outdoors is up to 25 people and recommended to wear face masks.
- Wash hands often and practice good hygiene
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- **IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS** self-isolate and get tested.
- Wear a well fitting 3-ply mask that covers your nose, mouth, and chin (or medical grade mask) and practice physical distancing of 2-metres when out of your home to get essential supplies, groceries, medications, etc.
- Sanitize commonly touched surfaces.

These public health measures will help limit the spread of infection to community members and allow time for thorough case and contact management, testing of persons at risk of having been exposed, and determination of the extent of possible spread in the community.

The ERCG will continue to monitor the COVID-19 Variants of Concern and are prepared to respond in the event of a case detected in Renfrew County or our Pikwakanagan community.

Please continue to follow public health measures. COVID-19 vaccine distribution is underway in Ontario; however, we must act now to prevent the spread of the virus and keep our communities safe.

Together We Can Do This.

Emergency Response Control Group

1657A Mishòmis Inamo
Pikwakanagan, ON K0J 1X0

Tel: (613) 625-2800

Fax: (613) 625-2332