



Department: Office of the Chief

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Subject: New Access Restrictions

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Chief.

COVID-19 ADDITIONAL DETAILS & PLANNING FOR THOSE AFFECTED

In the interest of helping to prevent further spread of COVID-19 for the health of our community, staff, and the general public, Fort William First Nation (FWFN) will be increasing restrictions to access of First Nation, effective Friday, April 10th, 2020 for a duration of two weeks and will reviewed further for possible extension. This decision was extremely difficult to make and, at the heart of it, was done in the spirit of protecting the health for everyone, in and out of the community. FWFN Chief and Council are strongly standing by the message of staying home to stay safe; with the exception of workers to access to their essential services employment. Help us to help you by practicing physical distancing during this unprecedented time.

This new vitally important public health measure was decided at a duly convened council meeting this week and was unanimously passed by the following motion and BCR:

Starting on April 10th, 2020 at 6:00p.m., the FWFN territory will be shut down to all non FWFN residents.

Those working for essential businesses operating on and off reserve will be allowed in and out but must be identified by their employer. FWFN members and residents are strongly encouraged to avoid leaving FWFN territory unless for essential medical purposes and to limit social interactions to people who reside within their residence only. All retail outlets will also be required to close on this effective date. The Mission Road security checkpoint will be moved to Bannon's Gas Bar and the intersection of Mountain Road and Chippewa Road. This motion will be reviewed in 14 days to determine a further COVID-19 response from Chief and Council.

We would recommend our residents that will be affected by this directive to prepare for the next two weeks by getting your needed essential supplies such as:

- Food supplies – try to get enough for two weeks. Our Emergency Response Group has also developed a food distribution for on-reserve residents to help alleviate concerns. Details about this program will be released in the coming days.



- Medical supplies – request prescriptions fills to last 30 days to ensure you can stay home for the duration of the two weeks.

FWFN Emergency Response: The Community Control and the Pandemic Planning Groups have been working together and meeting almost everyday to develop an appropriate response while at the same setting up alternative services to assist on and off reserve members during this pandemic. For those living off reserve, thank you for your patience as we work on announcing supports that will help to assist your family.

We would like to also take this time to announce our new FWFN Emergency Response Call Centre. If you are in need of assistance and require additional information related to COVID-19, reach out to our call centre:

Main Phone Line: 807.622.3913 – Active Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Family Support On-Call Line: 807-472-7701 – Active 24 hours a day
Email: covid19@fwfn.com – Active 24 hours a day

Information, as we receive it, is published on our website daily at www.fwfn.com and clicking on the COVID-19 Pandemic Action Plan on the home page. The Emergency Response Group meeting minutes will also be posted here to inform the community of their discussions. Alternatively, if you have access to social media, please follow us on Facebook as information is also posted there too.

Essential services will continue to be provided and the Emergency Response Team will be providing updates as they happen.

I wish to thank all of the employees, especially those assisting on the front lines where ever you call home, for the tireless and important work you do.

Respectfully,



**Chief Peter Collins
Fort William First Nation**