



# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

November 26, 2020

## Outbreak of COVID-19 in Piapot First Nation

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) public health officials are notifying the public that a **series of mass gatherings took place in the community of Piapot First Nation where confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were in attendance. As a result of these potential exposures and the number of cases in the community, an outbreak of COVID-19 has been declared on November 26, 2020.** Testing began on November 18, 2020, contact tracing is in progress, and exposed persons are being notified and monitored by the community health nurses in the area. The situation will continue to be closely monitored in the coming days.

**The following actions are critical right now** to bring COVID-19 transmission in First Nations communities back down to manageable levels:

- **Eliminate non-essential traffic between communities**, including travel to urban areas and other First Nations.
- Address non-compliance with self-isolation with supports, education and enforcement.
- Restrict visits between homes except for essential reasons (e.g. caring for a family member).
- Require non-medical masks in all public places and shared workplaces.
  - **Effective November 19, masks must be worn in all indoor public places across Saskatchewan.**
- **Closely follow public health advice and requirements in the current public health order.** Any type of gathering in a house or outbuildings (garages, etc.) can have no more than 5 people, including visits, birthday parties, weddings, religious gatherings and funerals.

The best way to avoid exposure to this virus is by continuing to wear non-medical masks, washing our hands, staying home if sick, and following the public health guidelines.

If you attended a mass gathering, monitor closely for signs and symptoms. If you develop symptoms please get tested. Symptoms of COVID-19 can vary from person to person. Symptoms may also vary in different age groups. Some of the more commonly reported symptoms include:

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| • Fever                               | • Conjunctivitis                                     |
| • Cough                               | • Dizziness  |
| • Headache                            | • Fatigue  |
| • Muscle and/or joint aches and pains | • Nausea/vomiting                                    |
| • Sore throat                         | • Diarrhea   |
| • Chills                              | • Loss of appetite (difficulty feeding for children) |
| • Runny nose                          | • Shortness of breath                                |
| • Nasal congestion                    | • Difficulty breathing                               |
| • Loss of sense of taste or smell     |  |

Testing continues to be available to anyone who requests it, regardless of whether they have symptoms or not, however, individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 will be a priority. A referral for testing can be made by contacting the local clinic or HealthLine 811.

If testing reveals positive COVID-19 result, public health staff will contact individuals (and close contacts) with further instructions and support. The Medical Health Officer notifies Community Leadership each time there is a new case in the community, but personal details (e.g., name, location) of individuals are **not** shared.

The Health Canada COVID Alert app is available to all Saskatchewan residents at no cost in the Apple and Google Play app store. This is another tool available to help prevent the transmission of COVID-19 by letting people know of possible exposures without sharing any personal information. For more information, visit the [COVID-19 Apps webpage](#).

Your informed choices and actions will make a difference to protect yourself and others!



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