**T’ít’q’et Council Communique**

**May 14, 2020.**

*T’ít’q’etmec and T’ít’q’et Residents: We are all in this together*

**Planning for the safety of T’ít’q’etmec and T’ít’q’et Residents during the first wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

T’ít’q’et Council and T’ít’q’et Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) are working together in planning for the gradual reopening of T’ít’q’et buildings to the public. The safety of staff and community members is a priority and remains the focus for a cautious process in reopening T’ít’q’et buildings. The T’ít’q’et State of Emergency declaration continues to be in effect.

In alignment with British Columbia, T’ít’q’et Council has approved an expansion of T’ít’q’et social circles. The physical distancing order of a minimum of 6 feet (2Metres) between parties who do not live in the same residence remains in effect. Continue to stay close to home. Non-residents may not enter any of the T’ít’q’et reserve communities without prior approval.

**Immediate Change to Size of Social Circles/Groups**

The change to the size of social groups is increased to 3 households with a maximum of 6 individuals from other households gathering out of doors if indoor space is not large enough to maintain the physical distancing order (Three household gatherings means, your household plus up to two other T’ít’q’et households to a maximum of 6 visitors including children). Please exercise great care while widening our social circle especially for Elders and those with underlying health issues. Please do not risk the health of any other person as you plan for small group family gatherings. Every person in the small group gathering must agree to participate, in other words, do not drop in on anyone without prior arrangement and agreement. Please do not visit if you or anyone in your household are not feeling well. Continue to go for walks while maintaining the physical distancing order, social group size and the ‘stay close to home’ requirements.

The reopening is a four-phase approach. Phase One is currently in effect

**Phase one: T’ít’q’et State of Emergency Declared**

* T’ít’q’et Emergency Operations Centre opened March 19, 2020
* Emergency Management Plans reviewed and revised
* Stay home order in place
* Physical distancing order in place
* T’ít’q’et lands closed to all non-residents except for essential services and those authorized by T’ít’q’et Council.
* Shut down of administration buildings although staff remain on duty.
* Shut down of all business travel for T’ít’q’et Administration and Council
* Shut down of all face to face T’ít’q’et business meetings; move to telephone or online meetings.
* Planning for the reopening of T’ít’q’et business

**Phase Two: Mid May and June 2020**

* Draft and approve COVID-19 ***Health & Safety Plan*** for all T’ít’q’et Administrative buildings i.e. “Infection-prevention control strategy”,
* Signage for door entrance “Stop! Do you feel….do you have…etc.”
  + Complete a staff/employee COVID-19 Daily Fit for Work Screening test
  + Marked spots on floor
  + Plexiglass requirements and where,
  + Cleaning and disinfection building requirements and frequency schedule
  + Ensure enough hand sanitizers, (PPE), cough etiquette, washing hands, physical distancing signage for all T’ít’q’et buildings.
* Council/Administrator – formal request for all staff to return back to work and ensure that they know the staff’s safety plans and supports they may need (I.e. childcare) etc. and that they understand the Health & Safety Plan and/or complete the assessment test - WorkSafeBC
* Open T’ít’q’et Administration buildings by appointment only to community Elders and/or Social Development and Health clients. (Notice to Elders, Social Development Clients and Health Clients they have to call ahead of time to set up an appointment)
* Hold meetings with physical distancing practices in place.
* Close down T’ít’q’et EOC OR some may working from their offices when needed
* Allow small 3 family household gatherings in a home limited to 6 individuals from another household and must maintain the physical distancing rule.

**Phase Three: July to end of August 2020 (With possibility of extension)**

* Open Seton Lake beaches, wharfs, boat launch to the community members with proper COVID-19 Social Distancing signage etc.
* Open community and Administration buildings to community members (including fitness room)
* Traditional Fishing and/or food gathering, medicine gathering etc.
* Playgrounds/parks/outdoor gym etc. with COVID-19 social distancing signs and “use at own risk” as no one is cleaning or disinfecting equipment etc.
* Allow small physical distancing gatherings with a limit of 10 e.g. workshops or training sessions

**Phase Four: Dependent on availability of wide vaccination and community immunity etc.**

* Larger social gatherings
* Youth Center: as children have some difficulty with physical distancing
* Larger sports events
* Conferences, conventions, or concerts etc.

**Phase five: A Healthier New Normal**

In closing, T’ít’q’et Council is encouraging our members and residents to stay the course and stay safe. Please be aware that Health Professionals expect a second wave of Covid-19 in the fall and winter of 2020-2021. This plan is a guide and will be revised as circumstances change. Stay strong on our journey to maintain T’ít’q’et health and well-being.