



# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

January 12, 2022

## **Outbreak of COVID-19 for Onion Lake First Nation**

Indigenous Services Canada is notifying the public that a COVID-19 outbreak has been declared for the community of Onion Lake First Nation as a result of the significant increase in cases, including clusters connected to various gatherings. Case investigation and contact tracing is ongoing. Public Health will be contacting anyone who is a known close contact and provide direction. However, if you are aware you were in close contact with a case or have been notified by a case directly, it is recommended you self-isolate immediately and get tested if you are not fully vaccinated or if you develop symptoms.

The best way to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community from serious illness and death from a COVID-19 infection is to be fully vaccinated. **Anyone five years of age or older can get vaccinated for COVID-19. All individuals 18+ are also eligible for a booster shot three months out from their second dose. Others born in 2009 or earlier with certain underlying health conditions are also eligible for a booster dose.** Vaccination will make a difference to the trajectory of COVID-19 in your community and the province overall. **We urge you not to wait. Everyone who is eligible should get fully vaccinated and receive a booster dose as soon as they are able.** All vaccines are safe and effective against severe outcomes, even against the variants.

**We need to remain vigilant and continue our efforts** to limit the spread of COVID-19 to prevent more harm to individuals, families and communities. **It is important that every individual, home, worksite and facility tighten their COVID-19 protocols** to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Take these additional steps to protect the safety of all:

- Stay home and keep away from others if you develop symptoms, even if mild.
- Limit indoor household activities to your own household members as much as possible at this time.
- Keep your social circle small and consistent.
- In public spaces, keep two metres away from others and **always wear a well-fitting mask**. Make wearing a well-fitting mask a part of your regular routine when in shared spaces with people from outside your immediate household.
- Avoid gatherings: all gatherings are risky for COVID-19 transmission and indoor gatherings are an especially high risk activity.
- Get the best possible ventilation possible in indoor spaces (e.g. open windows and doors for a few minutes).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol based hand sanitizer when unable to wash hands.
- Self-monitor for symptoms.
- If you develop any symptoms, get tested as soon as possible. Testing is an important way to detect the COVID-19 early and stop the spread. Call your local community health centre or HealthLine 811 for a referral for testing.
- Closely follow public health advice and requirements.

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

Dr. Ibrahim Khan, Regional Medical Health Officer  
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