



COVID-19 Community Bulletin - Tla-o-qui-aht EOC November 5th, 2020

The Tla-o-qui-aht Council and EOC want our members to know that we continue to work hard to make sure our communities are safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in our Region and around BC, the Tla-o-qui-aht EOC and Council has revisited our COVID-19 Recovery Plan. We are now moving back into a revised Phase One based on the current situation.

The attached Phase One of COVID-19 Recovery Plan was created by the Tla-o-qui-aht EOC to guide us as the situation changes. As stated in previous notices, we will move to different stages in our recovery plan as the COVID-19 Pandemic develops. With the increase in cases and the consistent high number of tourists in our region, the EOC has decided to move back to Stage One in our recovery plan as of Thursday, November 5th, 2020 (See below for details).

The Tla-o-qui-aht recovery plan will continue in well thought out phases, designed by our EOC to keep our most vulnerable members safe for the long-term. Our recovery plan may differ from the BC recovery plan due to our high number of vulnerable members and our unique remote location, in a popular tourist destination. When each new phase begins will depend on our continued success flattening the curve and adapting to tourism to our region.

The EOC will continue to meet regularly to monitor the COVID-19 situation in the Province and our Region. Please remember that the EOC will officially announce any updates or changes to the COVID-19 status. Official announcements and updates will happen through the EOC live feeds on Facebook from Elmer Frank and Council representatives, or through these community bulletins. Please contact EOC Chair, Elmer Frank if you have any questions or concerns at (250)726-8281. Leave a message if you do not reach him.

Current Phase 1: COVID Recovery Plan

Effective November 5th, 2020 until further notice

- Tla-o-qui-aht will remain in a state of emergency and the EOC will continue to operate.
- Continued Community Isolation – Only residents and essential service providers (no outside visitors beyond residents of Tla-o-qui-aht Communities). Members who want to move home after a time away will have a mandatory 14-day quarantine when returning home.

- Please do not travel beyond the junction unless it is essential to health and wellness.
- Any community members with any symptoms or illness must call 811 or talk to NTC Health Nurses to arrange to have a COVID-19 test at the NTC Office in Tofino or in your home community. Please contact Health Centre staff immediately for assistance with this process and to track potential cases and contacts if needed. As testing becomes more available all residents will be encouraged to get tested.
- Entrances to communities will continue to be gated and staffed. There will be a health check point at all gates. Members coming into and leaving the community must stop at the health check and will be asked questions to support contact tracing and community health. Temperature readings will be encouraged at community health checks when entering Tla-o-qui-aht facilities. Members are encouraged to wear masks at health checks to protect staff. Mask and hand sanitizer are mandatory for staff at health checks when talking to members.
- 9pm Curfew is still in effect
- Tla-o-qui-aht residents living in Opitsaht, Esowista and Ty-Histanis will be welcomed to visit each other if you stay within your 6-person bubble. We encourage you to be extra protective and cautious when visiting Elders or other vulnerable people. Please limit visiting to between 8:00am and 7:00pm. Please note, members who live away from home are asked to not visit at this time. We need to keep our home communities protected. Parental visitation is permitted. Please contact Elmer Frank, EOC Chair if you have special circumstances to be considered.
- Residents are not to have parties and social gatherings during Phase One.
- Continue Social Distancing – Please stay at least two meters away from other people at all times when outside your home.
- Masks – Please wear masks at all times when you are outside your home and are unable to socially distance. It is recommended to have masks with three layers of fabric.
- Limit travel to Tofino or Ucluelet to accessing essential foods, supplies and services, including employment. Only one member from each household should leave the community to shop.
- Please check in on Elders and vulnerable residents to see if they need support shopping or accessing essential services and supplies.
- Law enforcement, public safety, first responders and emergency response personnel are welcome to service communities.

- Essential service workers and contractors are welcome to serve the community under the guidance of the EOC Chair.
- Hitchhiking and ride sharing are considered to be high risk behaviour at this time.
- Water Taxis are only to bring residents and essential workers into Opitsaht. Boat passengers are expected to wear masks and sanitize hands before boarding. The number of passengers on boats should be limited to allow for proper social distancing.
- For all Tla-o-qui-aht worksites: Hand Washing stations, non-medical masks and safety protocols will be in place. Please call staff for appointments. Do not just show up at offices or health centre without being expected and informed of protocols. Each worksite will have appropriate protocols in place.
- The Main Office will remain closed but reception will be available during regular working hours by phone. Staff may be available by appointment only.
- Health Department available by phone and arranged appointments for essential services including Patient Travel, Social Development, Counselling and Nursing. Our staff will continue to serve and support membership on a limited basis. The doors to the Health Centre and MICC will be locked and staff maybe available by appointment only. Please phone ahead for services. TyHistanis (250)725-3335 Opitsaht (250)725-3233
- The MICC and Main Office will remain locked but phones will be answered and members will continue to be served by essential staff and services.
- Public Works will continue to serve the community on a limited capacity. Work in homes will be limited to emergency and essential services.
- Housing staff will continue to be available by email and phone. Homes will not be assigned at this time. There will be no moves. Home maintenance and renovations will be offered on an emergency basis only.
- Tribal Parks remain closed to visitors. Tribal Parks staff will continue regular monitoring and safe projects with protocols in place
- Education staff will pursue training and educational opportunities for students through on-line opportunities or in-person with social distancing and approval of the EOC Chair.
- The Tluucha Children's Centre will be open to provide child care to working parents or those attending school.

- Parents are encouraged to keep their children home from school at this time to protect our vulnerable community members. Education staff are working with SD70 to ensure that our students are supported with in-community/ in-home learning. New staff have been hired to support students and families. The Education Manager will be regularly updating families. Students have been given home computers and extra resources to support their learning in the community. The Education Department and Public Works Departments are working hard to purchase portable Class space for Opitsaht and TyHistanis/ Esowista. Please contact the Education Manager at (250)725-3338 or education@tla-o-qui-aht.org for more information or if you have questions.
- Additional staff have been hired to provide youth programming and will work to deliver safe programming and services. We will work to access safe external resources where needed.
- The Community Services Department has hired a new Family Counsellor, Elders Support Worker and Cultural Workers to offer additional support to individuals and families at this time.
- In-community stores that want to continue to serve community members will have to have a COVID safety plan approved by the EOC Chair, Elmer Frank.
- As we are just entering the second wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic we hope to keep our communities COVID free. If numbers continue to increase there may be increased protocols.

EOC and other important Contact Information

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations Main Line 250.725-3350

Health Centre 250.725-3335

Opitsaht Main Line 250.725.3233

Emergency Operations Committee (EOC)

- Elmer Frank, EOC Chair
250.726.8281(Call or Text) elmerfrank@telus.net
- Thomas George, Council/ EOC
250.725.0209 (only in emergency)
- Naomi Seitcher, Community Services Manager/ EOC
250.725.3335 communityservices@tla-o-qui-aht.org
- Allison Howard, Social Development and Patient Travel/ EOC

faw@tla-o-qui-aht.org

- Shawn Quick, EOC/ Public Works Manager
250.266.2413 pwmanager@tla-o-qui-aht.org
- Norine Messer, EOC/ Capacity Building Coordinator
250.735.4111 norinemesser@hotmail.com
- Saya Masso, Tribal Administrator/ EOC
250.725.3350 tribaladmin@tla-o-qui-aht.org
- Hazel Curley, EOC/ Opitsaht Intake
250.735.3233 opitsahtintake@tla-o-qui-aht.org
- Sheila Seitcher, EOC/ Housing
housing@tla-o-qui-aht.org
- Bruce Frank, EOC
250.726.4054 muuchink@gmail.com
- Iris Frank, EOC/ Education Manager
(250)725-3338 education@tla-o-qui-aht.org
- Corinne Ortiz-Castro (Martin) EOC/ Council
corinne.martin@tla-o-qui-aht.org (250)725-3338
- Nora Martin, EOC/ Health
250.725.3335 health@tla-o-qui-aht.org
- John Williams. EOC
jw19620711@gmail.com
- Barb and Dan Audet/ EOC
barbaudet@gmail.com danielaudet6795@gmail.com

NTC Teechuktl Mental Health Services

Cathy Komjathy – Clinical Counsellor (250)735-3367

Alyssa Fleishman - Child and Youth Health Counsellor (250)726-6159

Ann Marshall – Quu’asa Wellness Worker (250)725-5370

Margarete Wagner – Quu’asa Wellness Worker (250)725-3367

Toll Free 24-hour Crisis Line

Kuu-us Crisis Line – 1-800-588-8717

Vancouver Island Crisis Line – 1-888-494-3888