

FIRST NATION CONTROL GROUP COMMUNITY BRIEFING



www.temagamifirstnation.ca

May 20, 2022

CURRENT ACTIVE CASES IN THE COMMUNITY OF BEAR ISLAND

CURRENT CASES	STATUS
0	Active
70	Total # of Cases Since Jan. 2022

AS OF MAY 19, 2022 10:00 AM

NEW COVID-19 RAPID TESTING HOURS

Monday to Friday

8:30am - 12:00pm, 1:00pm - 4:30pm

Saturday CLOSED

Sunday 12:00pm-8:00pm (extended hours)

To book your appointment, call

705-237-8900 ext. 316

NO TRESPASSING

**Due to Covid 19 Global Pandemic;
Bear Island Reserve #1 remains
CLOSED TO GENERAL PUBLIC**

Exemptions will be made for: patrons to the Pier Market, Northstar Building, Bear Island Residents and their friends and family, Temagami First Nation Citizens and Teme-Augama Anishnabai Citizens and their friends and family, community residents, contractors, off-island TFN essential service staff and those in need of emergency medical care.

Bear Island Remains in STAGE 2

Chief and Council have confirmed that Bear Island will remain in Stage 2 of the Opening Plan.

This [Stages](#) document outlines guidance for how to safely operate as the COVID-19 Global Pandemic carries on. We are able to gather and seeing in-person meetings and events again. It's wonderful to be able to interact personally again. We want to caution against getting too comfortable and relaxed with gatherings though. Masking and physical distancing continue to help fight against spread of infection. We also encourage everyone to use our DPHC Rapid Testing Services and monitoring for the COVID-19 by using the Rapid Antigen Test kits available.

Some more good news - Bear Island has 0 reported active cases at the time of this report! Keep up the good work! Please remember that, should you test positive on a Rapid Antigen Test, please report your findings to Delma Peshabo, Community Health Nurse by calling 705-237-8900 ext. 305 so that the FNCG can support you and your household members.

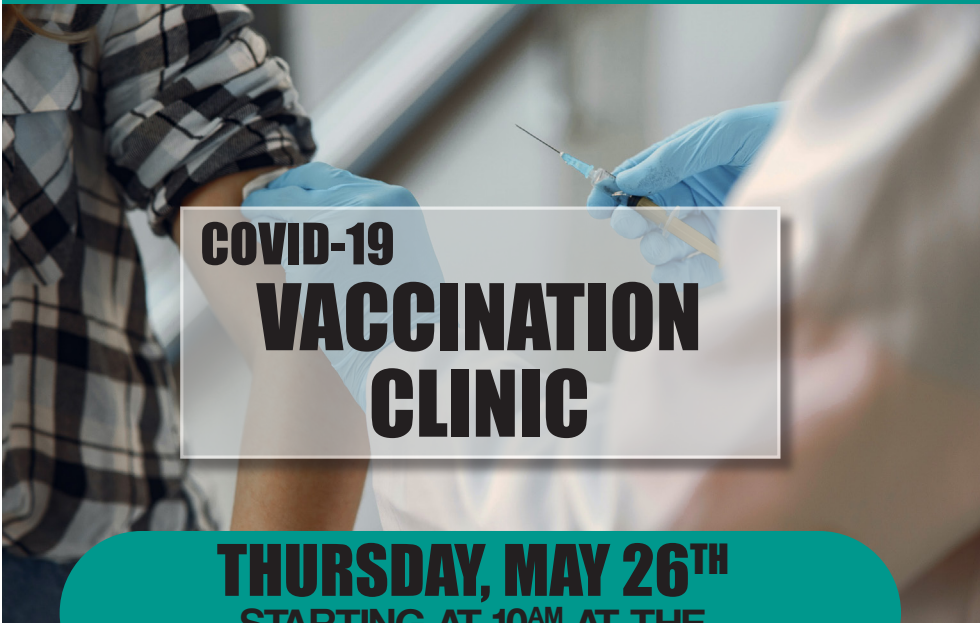
If you have had COVID-19, that does not mean you're "in the clear". Medical experts say that only 90 days after testing positive for COVID-19, you're not likely to be re-infected because of your body's natural immunities. But be weary, we are not guaranteed safety from re-infection beyond that. In fact, medical professionals are seeing re-infection. We need to keep our young ones and our high risk community members in the forefront of our minds. We need to act responsibly to protect those of us who may not have been able to receive COVID-19 vaccine, for instance children under 5 years. Continue to protect your families, especially those who may have immunocompromised issues who could get very ill.

Paula Potts, Pandemic Safety Coordinator has organized another COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic to be held on May 26th at the DPHC. The Timiskaming Health Unit will have all vaccines available at the Vaccine Clinic whether your first, second, third or fourth and for ages 5 and up. Please call Paula to schedule your vaccine by calling 705-237-8900 ext 304 or emailing pandemic@temagamifirstnation.ca.

TEMAGAMI FIRST NATION VACCINATION STATISTICS REPORTED ON APRIL 27, 2022

AGE GROUP	POPULATION	1ST DOSE	2ND DOSE	3RD DOSE	4TH DOSE
18+	221	89%	86.8%	56.2%	4%
12 - 17	25	88%	79%	33%	
5 - 11	24	63%	33%		

Indicators used to determine may not be 100% accurate - individuals may reside on Bear Island BUT may not be a TFN member; or there may be TFN members with addresses or postal codes outside of BI. Therefore, coverage rates may be overestimated in some age groups ***



COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC

THURSDAY, MAY 26TH
STARTING AT 10^{AM} AT THE
DOREEN POTTS HEALTH CENTRE

The Timiskaming Health Unit is coming to Bear Island to host a vaccination clinic for children, youth & adults.

The 1st , 2nd, 3rd and 4th dose will be offered.

Walk-ins are most welcome. However, it is preferred you call a day or two ahead so there are enough vaccines on hand.



Questions? Appointments?

Please contact Paula Potts at
pandemic@temagamifirstnation.ca or 705-237-8900 Ext. 304
for more information and to book your vaccine

Gathering Limits



Please limit indoor gatherings to 50% capacity and limit outdoor gatherings to 100 people from as few households as possible. This tactic has proven to lessen the spread of COVID-19. Masking continues to be mandatory in all indoor public spaces

Stage Two

NO TRESPASSING ORDER IN PLACE, ONLY OPEN TO BEAR ISLAND RESIDENTS, TAA AND TFN MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

- Band Buildings are open to the public, members of the public are still encouraged to make an appointment or call ahead.
- Nonessential employees to return to Bear Island offices for work, adhering to all applicable COVID-19 policies and protocols.
- Programs and services are operating with provisions in accordance with the COVID-19 policies.
- TFN employee travel is permitted as discerned by their manager
- Medical transit services can resume with recommendations from the Office Manager, Medical Trans Driver and Health Services Manager.
- Shuttle services are available, with Covid-19 prevention measures in place. Sanitizer and masks are required.

Link [HERE](#) to read the full Stages to Re-Opening guiding document

CONTACT INFORMATION

PANDEMIC SAFETY COORDINATOR
PAULA POTTS
705-237-8900 EXT. 304

COVID-19 RAPID TESTING
705-237-8900 EXT. 316
(LEAVE A MESSAGE IF NO ANSWER)

FOOD SECURITY COORDINATOR
APRIL MCKENZIE
705-237-8943 EXT. 121

Community Member Shares COVID-19 Experience

In speaking with community Elder, Bob Farr, we thought it important to share his experience with having had COVID-19 and in particular, his experience with support throughout this unsettling time.

Bob expressed his pleasant surprise as to the support received during the time that his positive result was found. In a phone call interview with Communications Officer, Heidi Jobson, he spoke about feeling reassured that the FNCG, Bear Island's COVID Team, had reached out to ensure his health and comfort were attended to.

He mentioned that within hours of testing positive at the DPHC Rapid Testing Services, he had received three separate calls. Nurse Practitioner, Mae Katt called to give a medical check and ensure that he knew options for care. The Timiskaming Health Unit called to explain isolation requirements and Interim Social Services Supervisor, Virginia Paul called to inquire about day-to-day needs that she could assist with such as meal delivery. He expressed that he didn't realize that the FNCG supported the community in such a holistic way and was happy to share with

other community members to reiterate the comfort and reassurance he experienced.

Bob explained that he fared quite well throughout the illness with merely mild flu-like symptoms but not all people who get sick are that lucky. We need to not get complacent.

Bob also wanted to note that he first tested himself using the Rapid Antigen Tests. He was experiencing mild symp-



Elder, Bob Farr

toms but the test, done twice, did not pick up a positive result. He then booked himself an appointment at the DPHC for a molecular test and a positive result was found there. His suspicions had been accurate. The DPHC's testing instruments are highly sensitive so reading the virus sooner is possible. He wants to encourage people, particularly those who are symptomatic to opt for the Testing Program services.

Bob has since recovered and is back to his usual busy-body self. In writing this experience we hope that other community members know that the FNCG has your well-being at the forefront of all of our efforts.

Miigwetch for sharing, Bob.

Get to know the FNCG Members

The TFN First Nation Control Group (FNCG) advises and makes recommendation to Chief and Council on matters surrounding COVID-19 .



Mae Katt, NP



Delma Peshabo



Jennifer Peshabo



Kassandra Plante, THU



Annette Paul



Paula Potts



Tanya Legall



Virginia Paul



Victoria Grant



April McKenzie



Heidi Jobson

Link [HERE](#) to TFN Updates on COVID-19

WHY THE STATE OF EMERGENCY?

Have you noticed some documents that outline that Bear Island continues to be in a Level 3 State of Emergency?

We see how the reference to the State of Emergency can be confusing. When the surrounding communities are opening up and loosening restrictions, we can go to the casino or take a trip, we've got a fairly high vaccination rate, why the fuss?

For a little background information, in March of 2020 Chief and Council declared a State of Emergency which was in response to the World Health Organization's declaration of a Global Pandemic due to the COVID-19 virus. We should remember that this Global Pandemic is still the current state. But we also know that we need to take cautious steps towards living with COVID-19 as the "new normal". We continue to remain in the State of Emergency because the whole world is still in a Global Pandemic.

The State of Emergency has helped us too coordinate efforts and call upon external resources, as necessary, to protect the health, safety and well-being of our community. The declaration of the State of Emergency was necessary as this initiates the provisions in the TFN Communicable Disease and Management Plan. It also allowed us to implement the First Nation Control Group (FNCG) who are relied upon to ensure the ongoing health and safety of community. The State of Emergency allowed us to restrict access to Bear Island which helped

to mitigate spread of COVID-19.

The FNCG have devised a 3 Stage Plan for Opening in order to cautiously and gradually loosen the restriction as the pandemic has evolved. We have seen the community move forward and backward as the local situation changes.

So, currently, we're operating in the second Stage of Opening. We're seeing Band Buildings opened and gatherings are permitted but with caution at the forefront of all of our minds. Our regional and urban surrounding hubs still have a fairly, high number of positive cases so we're being really cautious about the number of people who are allowed to be in Band Buildings. We'll ask that those entering ensure they follow the standard safety guidelines such as wearing a properly fitted mask and spacing 6 feet

apart from others.

So many people who had COVID can agree, this virus is highly transmissible, and it is easier than you think to get infected. We saw a spike in cases in the community over the last four months and Bear Island residents fared pretty well with managing the cases with the limited resources we have. We seem to be doing ok - right now. Let's keep pushing through and taking great care and concern for our community members.

We are all susceptible to the COVID-19 virus and to be kind and thoughtful of your fellow community members. There should be no stigma attached should we get sick, no blame to lay, only care and kindness.

