



Membertou
WELCOMING THE WORLD!

Chief Terry Paul, OC
Chief & CEO Membertou

March 13, 2020

Covid-19 Preparedness and Information for Membertou Community and Staff

In response to ongoing discussions about Covid-19, we in Membertou, are working to ensure that we are prepared ahead of any cases being confirmed in Nova Scotia.

National advisors are asking Canadians to avoid any non-essential travel outside of Canada, and we are encouraging the same. Although there have been no confirmed cases in the province at this time, travel limitations and precautions will significantly support efforts to reduce the spread of Covid-19. If you have traveled outside of Canada, please adhere to self-isolation for a 14-day period.

The province is warning against gatherings of 150 people or greater. We will also be adhering to this protocol. This will affect upcoming community events, and unfortunately, the *Wally Bernard Native Hockey Tournament* that was underway this weekend at the Membertou Sport and Wellness Centre, is now postponed to a later date.

In consultation with our Membertou Director of Education and Principal, we have decided to extend the March Break period for our students at the Membertou School, Daycare, and Youth Centre for an additional week. **Students are to return to school on Monday March 30, 2020.** At the time of return, increased hand-washing and sanitizing should be anticipated by staff, students and parents/guardians. Further updates will be provided as they are available.

I will be having further discussions with Mayor Clarke, Chief Leroy, health and government officials in the coming days. From there, we will be determining a go-forward plan on operations and programming.

The importance of hand-washing, sanitizing, and social distancing can be incredibly helpful in avoiding the spread of the virus, and we ask that all community members and staff be considerate of increasing their commitment to sanitary actions.

Our elders are at the highest risk. For their sake, we ask that even if you do not feel personally at risk, please be mindful to follow the fore mentioned precautions.

If you are experiencing fever or respiratory symptoms, contact 811 or 811 online to inquire about whether to visit the testing site at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital.

I encourage you not to panic, but to follow the factual information that is being provided to us by the province of Nova Scotia and the Canadian government.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.
Wela'lin,

Chief Terry Paul