

Update on COVID-19 Cases

Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform Members that the Chief Public Health Officer has released two public health advisories today.

The first indicates the two positive COVID-19 tests in Yellowknife first announced as presumptive cases on Friday have been confirmed. The individuals continue to safely isolate. We appreciate their cooperation with the investigation into contacts, and we wish them well.

A thorough contact investigation continues, initial signs are good.

This morning, we received notice of another presumptive positive test at Gahcho Kue diamond mine. All contacts onsite have been safely isolated.

The individual is a resident of Yellowknife and contact tracing has been initiated.

Mr. Speaker, A number of steps have already been taken by public health staff to minimize any potential risk to communities.

Immediate household members of the individual and identified contacts were quickly informed and directed to isolate, and given appropriate public health advice. Public Health has arranged for immediate testing of these contacts.

The contact investigation is ongoing and further updates to Members and to the public will be provided once more information is available.

There are two crucial things each of us must do to help in this situation.

First, we need to be kind and respectful to one another. Stigmatizing behaviors hurt all of us because it places the focus on individuals instead of focusing on doing our part to manage the virus appropriately. It has the potential to discourage people from accessing health care, and being honest with health professionals.

Second, we need to remember that we all have control in this situation. No matter the situation in the community, you are empowered to practice routine public health precautions which will work to keep you and others safer.

- Prioritize physical distance of at least six feet, or two metres
- Wear a non-medical mask when keeping distance is difficult
- Keep crowds small and spaces large to reduce the risk of transmission
- Frequently washing your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer
- Please maintain self-isolation if you are required to.
- Stay home if you're feeling sick – even if your symptoms are mild
- And If you develop any symptoms, contact your local healthcare centre to be assessed for COVID-19.

As I receive more details from the Chief Public Health Officer, I will provide additional information to this House and to the public. I encourage everyone to be kind, and stay safe.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.