

KEY BAND

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March 17, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THE KEY FIRST NATION MEMBERS

Key Health is preparing for COVID-19

1. Purpose: This is to clarify the misinformation that was seen on social media and communicate with the membership regarding the administration's plan for the coming weeks.

2. The Key Health and Administration operations are preparing for COVID-19, though there are no presumed or confirmed cases of COVID-19 on or around The Key First Nation.

3. The YTC-ICFS Prevention has contributed \$25,000, based on the population of on-reserve low-income members The Key First Nation.

4. This contribution is being used to assist the Health Department to purchase emergency supplies, to make up 14-day food hampers for the community.

5. Health Staff began gathering supplies last week and are continuing to gather supplies for the hampers this week. Information on COVID-19 will be included in the hampers.

The Health Department is preparing 14-day food hampers to be distributed to households- March 20th- Friday- 10am at the Health Centre.

On that day, have one member of the household pick up the food hamper, in order to keep person to person contact to a minimum.

Any elders who need assistance in picking up their hamper are to contact Sharon Key at 306.594.3230 or Corrina Krotenko at 306.594.3229

6. 14-day home isolation is the recommended approach from Health Officials as PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

Self-isolation and good hygiene are the best prevention measures for members. They are encouraged to stay home unless absolutely necessary.

7. Federal and Provincial government offices will be closing- that includes Indigenous Services Canada. Good Spirit School Division is closing schools this Friday-March 20th. The Norquay school will be closed.

8. Community Closures:

The Key Band Office will be closing to the public.

The Key Health Centre will be closing to the public.

The Key Day Care is closed as well

All Events scheduled are now cancelled.

9. Income assistance benefits will be given out on the regular dates of benefits- MARCH 31/2020 and APRIL 15, 2020. Medical Transportation (Methadone Van) will continue as scheduled, until further notice.

10. Health Center will continue to provide services for Emergency Mental Health and Harm Reduction. Please contact Martha Quewezance at 306.594.3233 for Mental Health, and Corrina Krotenko at 306.594.3229

11. Information on COVID-19 (coronavirus) will be available in the hampers. Members are encouraged to seek regular updates from the World Health Organization, Health Canada, and Saskatchewan Health Authority.

12. Essential Services will still be operating- Garbage collection will continue, and if roads need snow plowing that will continue as well.

13. Water Plant is in operation- there is a boiled water advisory-for cautionary measures, however, today, YTC water tech will be testing the water, to remove the boiled water advisory.

The Water plant had some technical issues-frozen pipe in the plant, and a set of pressure switches, that turns on and off the distribution pumps-that send out the water through the distribution pipes to home- these issues have been fixed, and water pressure has been restored. Special-ordered parts are required to resolve this issue long term, and despite a rush order, a three-week delay is expected for delivery.

Additional malfunctions of this system will cause only an intermittent outage of the water supply, but the Precautionary Boil Water Advisory will remain in effect until the parts are replaced.

The water continues to be tested regularly and no positive samples have been recorded.

The few homes that continue to have water issues may be isolated to that house-and not the rest of Key Nation, and are being investigated individually.

14. For any Housing related emergencies, please contact Michelle Cadotte at 306.594.3214

15. We ask Key Members to remain calm and stay posted on updates on COVID-19- from reliable sources of information, avoid misinformation AKA fake news, and wash hands with soap and water more than often, for preventive measures.

On Behalf of The Chief & Council of

The Key First Nation

Resources:

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>

Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Saskatchewan Health Authority: <https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/>

SHA Self- Assessment Tool: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-self-assessment>

Emergency Contact Phone Numbers:

Health: Sharon Key 306.594.3230 s.key@keyband.ca

Mental Health: Martha Quewezance 306.594.3233 m.quewezance@keyband.ca

Harm Reduction: Corrina Krotenko: 306.594.3229 c.krotenko@keyband.ca

Housing: Michelle Cadotte: 306.594.3214 m.cadotte@keyband.ca

Director of Operations: Gerald Marcoux: g.marcoux@keyband.ca