

Community Update – November 6, 2020

Emerging Wisely Current State: Relaxing Phase 2 – Next Steps

As of November 6, 2020, all active cases of COVID-19 in the NWT have recovered.

Key Excerpts from: Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on November 5, 2020

“Currently, there are 31,725 active cases across the country. The latest national-level data indicate daily averages of 3,234 new cases (Oct 29 - Nov 4) and close to 61,000 people tested, with **4.7% testing positive** (Oct 25 - 31). Outbreaks continue to contribute to COVID-19 spread in Canada. Although the size can vary from just a few cases to larger clusters, outbreaks are being reported in a range of settings including long-term care and assisted living facilities, schools, congregate living settings, industrial work settings and large social gatherings. As our activities move indoors during the colder weather, I am advising Canadians to avoid the 3Cs settings wherever possible; larger clusters tell us that closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded places where many people gather and close contact situations can amplify spread of the virus. Spread in informal social gatherings and activities is also occurring. In these more relaxed settings, such as family and holiday celebrations and recreational activities, letting our guard down and not consistently maintaining public health practises, such as physical distancing and mask wearing, can lead to many exposures and infections. For these reasons, I am recommending that everyone wear a **non-medical mask or face covering** when spending time indoors with people from outside of your immediate household.

The number of people experiencing severe illness continues to increase. Provincial and territorial data, indicate that an average of 1,175 people with COVID-19 were being treated in Canadian hospitals each day during the most recent 7-day period (Oct 29 - Nov 4), including 223 of whom were being treated in intensive care units. During the same period, there were an average of 43 COVID-19-related deaths reported daily.

As hospitalisations and deaths tend to lag behind increased disease activity by one to several weeks, the concern is that we have yet to see the extent of severe impacts associated with the ongoing increase in COVID-19 disease activity. As well, influenza and respiratory infections typically increase during the Fall and Winter, placing increased demands on hospitals. Therefore, it is so important for people of all ages to maintain public health practises that keep respiratory infection rates low.”