January 19, 2022

Outbreak of COVID-19 Declared in All Nations' Healing Hospital

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) public health officials are notifying the public that an **outbreak of COVID-19 is being declared for the All Nations' Healing Hospital on January 19, 2022. First Nations and Inuit Health Branch is working with the All Nations' Healing Hospital to take steps to protect the health of all residents and staff, and will continue to monitor the situation closely.**

The All Nations' Healing Hospital remains open. Additional measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the hospital.

The best way to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community from serious illness and death from a COVID-19 infection is to be fully vaccinated. **Anyone five years of age or older are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated for COVID-19. All individuals 18+ are also eligible for a booster shot three months out from their second dose. Others born in 2009 or earlier with certain underlying health conditions are also eligible for a booster dose. We urge you not to wait. Everyone who is eligible should get fully vaccinated and receive a booster dose as soon as they are able.** All vaccines are safe and effective against severe outcomes, even against the variants.

We are reminding everyone of important and simple measures we all can take to minimize the risk of transmission in all settings:

- Stay home and keep away from others if you develop symptoms, even if mild.
- Limit indoor household activities to your own household members as much as possible at this time.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol based hand sanitizer when unable to wash hands.
- Maintain physical distancing of at least six feet or two meters.
- Always wear a well-fitting mask indoors in all public places or shared areas at work.
- Avoid gatherings: all gatherings are risky for COVID-19 transmission and indoor gatherings are an especially high risk activity.
- Ensure that frequently touched surfaces are regularly disinfected.
- Do not gather or share food at work, including breakrooms, at check-stops, warm-up areas, smoking areas, etc.
- Self-monitor for symptoms.
- If you develop any symptoms, self –isolate immediately and get tested as soon as possible. Testing is an important way to detect the COVID-19 early and stop the spread. Call your local community health centre or HealthLine 811 for a referral for testing.
- Seek medical care if you need it. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, reschedule your appointments to a later time, when possible. If the appointment is of an urgent nature, call ahead of your appointment time, noting you have COVID-19 symptoms. If you are having medical emergency, call 9-1-1.
- Closely follow public health advice and requirements.

Your informed choices and actions will make a difference to protect yourself and others.

Dr. Ibrahim Khan, Regional Medical Health Officer
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