



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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COVID-19 UPDATE

Home Away From Home

First Nations Host Site Guidance Document During Covid-19

July 2020

This document was compiled by NAN as a general information guide for communities and is not intended to be an exhaustive review of the roles and responsibilities of the various parties. This document does not create any responsibilities and or liability where it does not otherwise exist, and in the event of any discrepancy, the current legislation and/or Ministry guidelines prevail.

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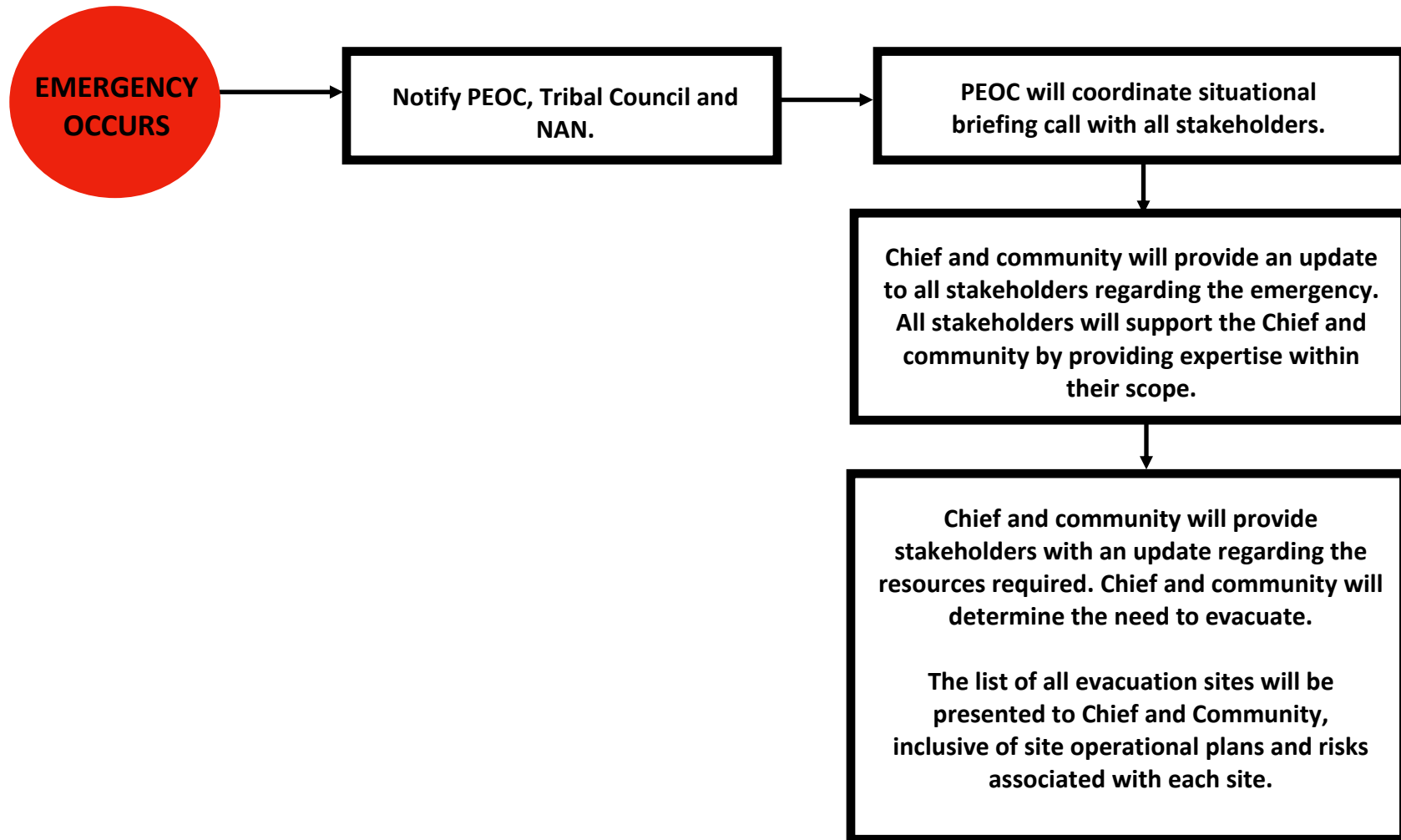


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Send all inquiries regarding COVID-19 to emergency@nan.ca

www.nancovid19.ca

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE



Roles and Responsibilities

Chief and Community:

- Will determine the need to declare an emergency.
- Will provide situational report to stakeholders.
- Will determine the evacuation hosting location(s).
- Medical Doctor (MD) / Nurse in Charge (NIC) to provide information on vulnerable persons and level of care required.

Tribal Council:

- Will assist community throughout the emergency by providing networking and connecting resources.
- Will support Chief and Community throughout the emergency.
- Will support evacuation host sites by acting as a Liaison.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN):

- Will assist community throughout the emergency by providing networking and connecting resources.
- Will support Chief, Community and Tribal Council throughout the emergency.
- Will support evacuation host sites by acting as a Liaison.



Indigenous Services Canada (ISC):

- Will assist community throughout the emergency by providing networking and connecting resources.
- Will support Chief, Community and Tribal Council throughout the emergency.
- Will support evacuation host sites by providing funding as outlined in the JEMS document.

Provincial Emergency Operations Center (PEOC):

- Will assist community throughout the emergency by coordinating stakeholder calls.
- Will support Chief, Community and Tribal Council throughout the emergency.
- Will support evacuation process by coordinating evacuation flights in partnership with MNRF.
- Will support host sites **if** requested by Chief and Council.



Policy and Procedures

Joint Emergency Management Steering Committee (JEMS) Service Level Evacuation Standards:

The JEMS model will still apply for First Nations hosting. Any discretion within the JEMS document due to the complexity of COVID-19 and non-traditional hosting must be agreed upon by Federal, Provincial and the First Nations Chief and Council. Recommendations can be made to Chief and Council, however they can not be forced upon Chief and Council unless they are legal matters within the hosting jurisdiction.

Host Site Selection:

Chief and Council have the ultimate authority on Host site selection. Given COVID, traditional supports may not be readily available. If selecting non-traditional host locations, the use of virtual and Telehealth systems may be required. These locations require community members to be diligent in bringing their medications with them while it may be slower to get prescriptions to them in the non-urban setting. It is the responsibility of Chief and Council to ensure they are comfortable with the level of services available at each site. Each host site should be assessed by Chief and Council in a standardized approach, allowing Chief and Council to determine what is acceptable for their community. The following table is designed to help guide Chief and Council assess each site.



| Site Assessment | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Services | Urban Sites | Non-Urban Sites | Neighbouring First Nation Community | Land Based Site |
| Accommodations available | Hotels | Lodges with common areas | Arenas/ School gyms/ Lodges | Tents |
| Emergency Services (911) available | Police, Fire, Ambulance | Limited support available from Police, Fire, Ambulance | Level of service dependent on hosting community. May not have access to additional Police, Fire, Ambulance due to limited resources and jurisdictions. | Limited supports available from air ambulance. No fire or police services. |
| Health Care Resources available (Hospital, pharmacies, home health care, mental health) | Hospitals, Pharmacy, LHIN, Crisis Workers | Telehealth Clinics, virtual support | Level of service dependent on hosting community. May require additional Nursing support. | No health care services on site. |
| Personal Support Services | Personal Shops | Required personal supplies retrieved once requested | Rely on supplies already in community. May have a delay in additional supplies. | Rely on available supplies brought to camp. May have a delay in additional supplies. |



First Nation Hosts:

An alternative to traditional urban hosting is when a neighbouring First Nation community offers to host. This provides communities with the closest ‘home away from home’ atmosphere and should be equally considered by Chief and Council when determining a hosting location. To become a host location, First Nation communities must ensure that they are not in the path of potential danger (ie. wildfire) which may lead to an additional evacuation of their own community. The First Nation community should also ensure that they have a support team in place who can be dedicated to hosting, that the local supply chain can meet the new demand as well as that dedicated catering and lodging is available. It is strongly recommended that First Nation communities wishing to use other First Nation communities as host locations pre-establish a mutual aid agreement prior to an emergency.

Land Based Sites:

Another alternative to traditional hosting is land based sites. This is when a community evacuates to a land base outside of the community and establishes a camp for the evacuees to stay at. This can be difficult due to lack of existing supports and functional sites as well as necessary equipment to set up a camp. The other thing to consider is the risk of exposure to the potential hazard. For example, in a flood you can evacuate to higher land to escape the floodwater but with a forest fire the path of danger and extent of smoke coverage is unpredictable therefore by evacuating to the land could put evacuees back in the path of danger. If choosing to evacuate to the land the evacuating community would need to ensure they have a support team in place who can be dedicated to setting up and maintaining the camp, ensuring needed supplies is delivered, establishing a foot patrol and keeping people informed of updates on the emergency situation.

COVID-19 and Protective Measures:

First Nation communities are considered to be a highly vulnerable health population. With a high rate of asymptomatic patients found within the general population, it is in the best interest that all personnel involved in an evacuation are treated as being potential COVID-19 carriers. As such, in addition to advanced public health measures, limited interaction with hosting staff and the general public is strongly advised. All First Nation evacuees and hosting staff are required to be provided with a face mask. A minimum of 4 non-medical masks per evacuee, per day must be provided. Cloth masks are also encouraged and acceptable if they are available and the evacuees are able to self-laundry. A minimum of 3 cloth masks per evacuee must be provided. If a cloth mask option is refused by the evacuee, then non-medical masks must be made available to them.



Host Site Requirements

All hosting sites must have the following:

- Secure outdoor green space excluding parking lots;
- Dedicated on-site eating space (i.e outdoor patios) where evacuees may choose to go while following public health measures;
- Additional hand washing stations, with one mandatory station at the entrance of the facility;
- All PPE for staff and evacuees and;
- Must have a copy all sub-contractors COVID prevention procedures on-site and electronically available to share with applicable parties if requested.

All hosting sites must:

- Be secured and secluded from the general public;
- Maintain a daily visitor and staff log and;
- Must be deep cleaned prior to evacuee arrival.

All hosting staff must:

- Always wear a mask;
- Check-in to facility site and complete screening questionnaire;
- Follow all Public Health measures;



- Limit contact and interactions with community, only completing the necessary assigned tasks;
- Immediately report any symptoms that may arise during shift;
- Will seek to limit the number staff needed, keeping the team consistent;
- Take breaks in designated staff area only and;
- Use staff dedicated washrooms only.

The Evacuation Response Team will include the following members in addition to the host site team:

- A First Nation Advisor/ advocate from the respective Tribal Council (this may be done via teleconference);
- A crisis/ mental health support member (this may be done via teleconference) and;
- An elder (this may be done via teleconference).



Arrival Example

| Event | Tasked to: | Provisions: |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Plane lands (35-45 evacuees / plane) | PEOC and MNRF coordinating flights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuees to be wearing masks provided by PEOC/Ministry Of Health/First Nations Inuit Health Branch. • If not wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as per the Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19, dated June 17, 20201, and subsequent interim orders, host site must be notified immediately. • If ALL planes are not using masks for flights, community can remain in same hotel. IF it is a split, flights with PPE must go to a separate location than those NOT using PPE. |
| Evacuees move into screening area at airport | Evacuation response team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuees must be wearing masks. • All evacuees screened for COVID-19. Those clear continue to bus. • Mustering areas must be one way. • Screening, registration and room assignment to take place simultaneously at airport. • Any evacuees screening positive, will result in a “flagged airplane” and must use alternative isolated hotel site within host community. • Registration team must wear mask and operate behind plexiglass. Tablets must be wiped down between use. • Each evacuee given a two-week supply of non-medical masks. • Water and snacks must be provided in bagged manner. • Porta-potties and hand washing stations must be available. • Change tables and family stations must be available. |



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| Luggage is loaded into truck and trailer by airport staff | Airport staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bag handlers must wash hands before and after luggage handling of each aircraft. All staff must be wearing masks. |
| School busses bring evacuees to designated hotel Truck and luggage trailer follow | Evacuation response team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus driver must wear mask. • Evacuees must be wearing mask. |
| Evacuees gather luggage and move into their rooms | Evacuation response team and Evacuees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuees will be encouraged to go to their rooms, wash their hands and shower ASAP. |
| Special needs | Hotel Staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each hotel room must be provided with soaps and shampoos, refrigerators, microwaves and individual coffee and tea makers. • Any additional special needs (cribs, personal medical devices, etc.) can be requested by calling the front desk. Items will be delivered to the door by staff. Staff will be wearing masks. |



Daily Hosting Operations Example

| TIME | Event | Tasked to: | Provisions: |
|----------|--|--|--|
| 8 AM | Morning briefing with hotel security team | Completed by EM response team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All on-site staff require masks. • Must wash hands on arrival. • Must log in, answering questionnaire. |
| 9 AM | Virtual stakeholder briefing | Includes FN community leadership and liaisons, hotel manager, host community leads | |
| 10 AM | PEOC briefing call | Includes FN community leadership and liaisons, host community leads | |
| 12- 6 PM | Forward planning | EM response team | |
| 7 PM | Daily Incident Management System (IMS) 209 G report sent to stakeholders | EM response team will write, send to Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) for final approval. CEMC will forward to all stakeholders | |



Daily Evacuee Procedure Example

| TIME | Event: | Tasked to: | Provisions: |
|-------|---|--|--|
| 8 AM | Morning breakfast delivered to rooms | Completed by hotel staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All on-site staff require masks. • Must wash hands on arrival. • Must log in, answering questionnaire. • Garbage must be placed outside of room. Will be collected by hotel staff. • Coffee and tea available within rooms. • Snack bags delivered same time. |
| 9 AM | Wellness checks begin. Liaisons go door to door and fill out survey for how each evacuee is feeling and if they need anything | Completed by liaisons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaisons require masks. • Any medical concerns are highlighted and brought to EM response teams attention immediately. • Provides each room with written, updated situation report. |
| 10 AM | Morning guided walk / social distancing activities | At the direction of public health measures and Chief and Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks must be worn at all time. |
| 12 PM | Lunch delivered to rooms | Completed by hotel staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All on-site staff require masks. • Must wash hands on arrival. • Must log in, answering questionnaire. • Garbage must be placed outside of room. Will be collected by hotel staff. |



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|-----------------|--|--|---|
| 12- 4 PM | Afternoon guided walk / social distancing activities | At the direction of public health measures and Chief and Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks must be worn at all time. |
| 5 PM | Dinner delivered to rooms | Completed by hotel staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All on-site staff require masks. Must wash hands on arrival. Must log in, answering questionnaire. Garbage must be placed outside of room. Will be collected by hotel staff. |
| 7 PM | Evening guided walk / social distancing activities | At the direction of public health measures and Chief and Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks must be worn at all time. |



Repatriation Example

| Event | Tasked to: | Provisions: |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Flight manifest are built and shared | Evacuation response team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate families are kept together. Essential workers for the community are returned home first. Baggage limits as per JEMS. |
| Evacuees report to the designated loading area with luggage | Evacuation response team and Evacuees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuees must be wearing masks. Mustering areas must be one way. Registration team must wear mask and operate behind plexiglass. Tablets must be wiped down between use. All evacuees screened for COVID-19. Those clear continue to bus. Any evacuees screening positive, will result in a “flagged family”. Them and their family members that shared a hotel room MUST return to their room with their luggage. Public Health testing must be completed and alternative arrangements will be made for their repatriation as per Chief and Community, MOH and ISC. |
| Luggage is weighed and loaded into truck and trailer | Evacuation response team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bag handlers must wash hands before and after luggage handling of each aircraft. All staff must be wearing masks. |
| School busses bring evacuees to designated aircraft Truck and luggage trailer follow | Evacuation response team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus driver must wear mask. Evacuees must be wearing mask. |



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|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <p>Plane is loaded (35-45 evacuees / plane)</p> <p>Luggage is loaded</p> | <p>Evacuees and airport staff</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuees to be wearing masks. • All staff must be wearing masks. • Bag handlers must wash hands before and after luggage handling of each aircraft. |
| <p>Evacuees arrive back to community</p> | <p>Chief and Community</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that evacuees go to their homes, wash their hands and shower ASAP. • It is recommended that evacuees self-isolate for 14 days. • It is recommended that all luggage (minus essential medications) remain secured at the airport terminal or designated area for 3 days prior to being picked up by owners. |

References

Ministry of Health. (April 20, 2020). *COVID-19 Guidance: Community Emergency Evacuations Version 1*. PDF.

Ministry of Health. (May,6,2020). *COVID-19 Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes Version 3*. PDF.

AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY EXEMPTION NO. 2020-49

