



LAKE BABINE NATION



January 19, 2021

To all Lake Babine Nation members on or off reserve, please share to individuals who don't have the means to go on social media or the LBN website.

As of today, there are:

- 48 lab confirmed cases in both **Woyenne** and
- 1 lab confirmed case in **Tachet** since September 2020;
- 25 lab confirmed off reserve since May 2020; and
- 31 cases not tested but were deemed positives due to being direct contacts.
- There are **currently 8 active cases** with the majority of the cases occurring in mid-December 2020 and early January 2021 as we continue to monitor the situation.

With all of these cases, we found that a majority of the transmission occurred because of gatherings and visitations with a few of the confirmed cases whether it was house parties, getting together for dinners, birthday parties, or funerals. Some even knew they were sick but still went around in public.

The provincial health orders include:

- every household must stay within their own bubble meaning you can only have small gatherings if you live in the same house;
- no gatherings of any size at any time such as dinners or parties or any other events that promotes gatherings;
- travelling is restricted to only essential travel only especially to highly effected areas; and if you do come back from highly affected areas you should self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for up to 14 days.
- Also, other information that should be considered and are potential risks are giving rides to people not within your own household as we have had members transmitting to others when they were giving rides and being truthful about your sickness where we are finding a lot of people are not letting anyone know of their sickness due to reasons such as not wanting to isolate or miss out on paychecks when they have to self-isolate or simply that they don't want to be judged or criticized.

These may seem like valid reasons to some but it puts so many at risk so get the virus as it transmits so easily even though at times masks are worn as the virus can also be transmitted by touching surfaces that have the virus.

Finally, we wanted to share new information from health officials that have been monitoring the coronavirus as it mutates much like any other virus and from the studies there are two new strains identified from the coronavirus of which these new variants as they are called come from the United Kingdom and from South Africa. The UK variant is known to transmit from person to person a lot faster and the South Africa variant can escape the antibodies that is in the vaccine and both have been confirmed in individuals in Prince George recently which is quite alarming. This is another reason why the members need to think about non-essential traveling to areas such as Prince George and that includes medical appointments. We don't discourage the members to continue with medical appointments but if it is something that can wait or it is not an emergency then consider postponing to another date.