



CROSS LAKE BAND OF INDIANS
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RED CRITICAL LEVEL FOR CROSS LAKE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

As of today, February 16, 2021, **167** new cases of the virus have been identified in Manitoba. **93 new** cases in the Northern Health Region. Province further announced the new COVID-19 Variant arrived in MB, which is more contagious than the COVID 19 virus.

The Cross Lake Public Health Order is still in effect till further Notice.

The COVID 19 virus is Community Spread in Cross Lake. This means that it is no longer contained to families or gatherings and people are getting tested from all over the community and are testing positive. We have “Super Spreaders” people that have identified many contacts. 1 positive case had 40 contacts. An Epidemiologist is in Cross Lake as of today to search for the cause of disease, identify people who are at risk. Determine how to control or stop the spread or prevent it from happening again.

The Chief and Council along with Mayor and Council, CLPPC with Dr. Marcia Anderson, RRT Coordinator Melanie McKinnon had a conference call to update that one positive case tested have the possibility to be the B.1.1.7 UK Variant. The Cadham Rapid Test is consistent with the B.1.1.7 UK Variant. This test is forwarded to the National Microbiology lab for further confirmation. This B.1.1.7 UK Variant is very contagious and can more be easily transmitted than the COVID 19 virus.

Chief David Monias, Councillor Donnie McKay Responsible for Health, Ryan Castel CLBOI Executive Director, Mayor Bob Smith and the Cross Lake Health Team conferenced with FNIHB officials to present a strategy for Cross Lake. Issues were identified that are impacting the Community of Cross Lake, overwhelmed Medical providers, overwhelmed Public Health, processing into AIA for positive clients, isolation facilities are becoming at full capacity, running out of space for contacts and positive clients. The virus is impacting our dialysis process for clients. Short on Human Resources in the Community. Most Cross Lake Band Programs are impacted by this outbreak and have staff that are positive. An assessment will be completed by FNIHB.

Update as of today's date is 6 nurses will be arriving in the community to assist Public Health in contact tracing.

The present RRT will be rotating and will be leaving and other 6 will come in to do testing. Please ensure that if you are requested to go get tested please do so.

As of today February 16, 2021 the COVID-19 SUMMARY FOR CROSS LAKE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- **241** total positive cases in Cross Lake on Reserve from January 1, 2021
- **18** new Positive Cases today
- **151 Active Positive Cases (79 of these are children)**
 - **137 Positive cases** in AIA - Alternate Isolation Accommodations (1 in Hospital)
 - **14 Positive cases pending AIA**
 - **1 Medivac'd to Thompson**
- **300+** Contact cases since the Weekend (1 person had 40 contacts)
- **50+** households affected
- 1 in ICU & 2 in Hospital (no longer contagious)

5 charters arrive today to take out people to isolations.

The Rapid Response Team have arrived and are set up at the Cross Lake Arena to expedite the process of testing and to assist in the contact tracing. The RRT will be testing named contacts till 12:00 a.m. If you have been given a time to get tested, please do so. If you require a ride to go get tested please contact **Melissa Scott (204)939-3909** to arrange for transportation.

B.1.1.7 VARIANT:

Paungassi First Nation was also the other First Nation identified that positive cases carried the B.1.1.7.VARIANT: Dr. Roussin announced today that the 7 cases that were thought to carry the B.1.1.7 VARIANT were negative and ruled out that the B.1.1.7 VARIANT was in the First Nation. Hopefully the outcome will be the same for Cross Lake.

Only a small number of cases have screened as being possible due to this VOC. Others have screened negative and are the “wild type” (original) COVID-19.

The B.1.1.7 Variant (UK Variant) does spread more easily than the COVID-19 so this is a concern in communities with conditions that already make respiratory viruses spread more easily like housing shortages, this means it is more important than ever that people limit close contacts with people outside of their home, follow all public health precautions, and that no large gatherings are held. Avoiding non essential travel must happen and is happening, the fewest number of travellers possible should go.

People, you are asked to stay home in your house or yard. We are on lockdown and people will not be allowed to roam in the community. Only essential services will be allowed to pass with a Please talk to your family that they follow the rules as well. Check Stops are in place for a purpose, to regulate in community travel. We all have a responsibility to ourselves, our families, our community. Further please refrain for making comments that are not true to our present outbreak, we post medical advice that is given to us for assuredly. And also please refrain from “mocking” people and the virus. COVID 19 is real and the B.1.1.7 UK Variant Virus is real and we have to act and live like they are in the community. The UK Variant is 50%-70% more transmittable than the COVID 19 virus. The UK Variant does appear to have a case fatality rate about 30% higher.

God Bless our Community.