

# COVID-19 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

FOR SASKATCHEWAN MINING INDUSTRY

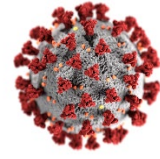
**Mineral Exploration Camps**



**SMA**  
Saskatchewan  
Mining Association

[saskmining.ca](http://saskmining.ca)

  @SaskMiningAssoc



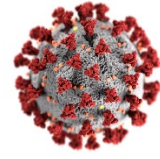
## MINERAL EXPLORATION CAMPS

### COVID-19 Precautionary Measures

#### Table of Contents

#### Table of Contents

<b>Overview .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Saskatchewan Public Health Orders .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Pre-camp &amp; Post Community Communication.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Pre-Camp Assessment .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Travelling To And From Site.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Physical Distancing .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Typical Infection Control Supplies.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Cleaning and Disinfecting .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Support Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Safe Food Handling .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Laundry .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Managing Individuals who Become Sick.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Draft Templates.....</b>	<b>10-12</b>
<b>1. COVID-19 Pre and Post Camp Self-Assessment Checklist.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2. Vehicle Window Signage.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3. Sample Letter of Introduction to Provide to Authorities.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Appendix 1 - Checkpoint &amp; Community Contacts .....</b>	<b>13-15</b>
<b>Appendix 2 - COVID – 19 Resource Contact Page.....</b>	<b>16-17</b>



## MINERAL EXPLORATION CAMPS

### COVID-19 Precautionary Measures

#### Overview

The health and safety of workers at Saskatchewan mineral exploration camps (“camps”), their families and nearby communities, is of paramount importance to SMA member companies. A number of precautionary measures have been taken by SMA members in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are a number of elements that are common to exploration camps that allow for pandemic planning. These are the **minimum** precautions taken and additional measures may be employed at exploration camps on a site-specific basis using a risk-informed approach.

This document is intended to highlight key communicable disease preparedness and response measures to be undertaken in camps in relation to COVID-19. This document is intended to provide guidance to field crews to ensure infection prevention and control measures are in place at camps during the summer of 2020.

**Saskatchewan Public Health Orders - are listed [here](#)**

#### **All companies follow the direction of the province’s Chief Medical Health Officer**

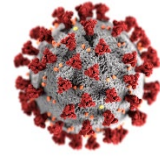
On April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and subsequently on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2020, the province of Saskatchewan issued Public Health Orders that restricted all non-critical travel to, out of, and within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District. (NSAD). The Public Health Order provided for exemptions including for “Employees of, and persons delivering, critical public service and **allowable business services**”. While the Public Health order for all of northern Saskatchewan was ultimately rescinded on June 13, 2020 companies are encouraged to follow the community-related travel protocols outlined below.

Production, processing and supply chains of the mining sector, including mineral exploration activities have been identified by the Government of Saskatchewan as “**allowable business services**”.

Most mineral exploration camps are located within the NSAD. The population of this large region is approximately 38,000 people in over 35 communities. Many of these communities are remote, and some are “fly-in”.

The Covid-19 pandemic is of particular concern to communities in the NSAD for a number of reasons including the challenges of multi-generational and crowded housing and limited medical treatment options should there be an outbreak of COVID-19.

Ensuring that mineral exploration activities **do not result** in transmission of COVID-19 to these communities is imperative. While exploration programs occur distant from communities, your travel route will inevitably take you through, or past many communities.

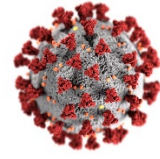


In association with the Public Health Order, the Government of Saskatchewan has granted northern communities the authority to enforce highway checkpoints. These checkpoints have been set up at various locations within the NSAD. Your community contact can advise you of the location of these checkpoints. Some of these are identified in Appendix 1.

### **Pre-camp & Post Community Communication**

The following enhanced communication and safety protocols are strongly recommended in advance of traveling from your point of origin to your exploration camp.

- Contact the appropriate community contact(s) at least 2 days in advance of your plans to travel to your camp.
  - Emails, Texts are recommended methods of communication followed up by a direct call.
  - Reconfirm travel plans with the appropriate contact on the departure date with the approximate arrival time through the checkpoint.
- Contact information provided should include:
  - The anticipated date of travel through the community to site and planned travel route
  - The names of people in your party
  - The number and description of vehicles that will be travelling to your exploration site.
  - Exploration camp destination
  - Anticipated date of return through the community to your destination of origin
  - Confirmation that individuals in your party have completed the pre-screening questionnaire. **(Template 1)**
- The attached message with appropriate information should be printed and taped to the drivers' side back window to limit dialogue and for efficiency of travel **(Template 2)**.
- Prepare a letter of introduction to be provided to the checkpoint personnel **(Template 3)**.
- Once through a checkpoint, continue past the community without stopping.
- Prior to departing from the camp to their point of origin, the appropriate community contact should be advised with 24 hours notice.
- Before workers travel from camp to their home communities, they should be assessed for COVID-19 symptoms prior to their departure with post-screening documentation compiled and stored at site **(Template 1)**.
- Be patient and considerate of others: be prepared that trips may take longer than those made in the past due to the necessary precautions being taken to ensure the safety of staff and others in the community, and be prepared to answer questions and to cooperate fully with any officials requesting verification of the purpose of your travel.
- Your attention to these enhanced communication and safety measures will be appreciated by northern communities.

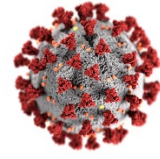


### **Pre-Camp Assessment (Template 1)**

- Company communication to all workers with respect to company-specific COVID-19 response actions/requirements
- Workers are required to self isolate at home for 14 days:
  - if they, or someone from their household, have travelled outside of Canada
  - if they have been identified by Ministry of Health/SHA as a **close contact of someone with COVID-19 for 14 days from the date of having been exposed**
- Workers can return to work only after consultation with a company health care provider and/or the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA)
- Workers must not exhibit any COVID-related symptoms. If sick or have COVID-19 symptoms, workers are required to call 811 and follow the advice of the medical professionals
  - workers should return to work only after consultation with a company health care provider and/or the SHA
  - workers should participate in contact tracing conducted by SHA for any positive tests
  - body temperature screening may be required at camps
- All personnel in camp should fill out a medical emergency form for the medic/first responder in camp. This can assist in identifying underlying conditions that individuals may have as well as assisting in development of isolation strategies for the camp if the need arises.
- While in camp continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation both regionally and provincially and provide updates to field staff and contractors as necessary.
- To keep the camp virus free, no non-essential visits should be allowed.

### **Travelling To And From Site**

- Except in an emergency, Company staff cannot physically contact any other person in the NSAD during travel to and from site and will follow all applicable guidelines regarding COVID-19 as provided by the Saskatchewan Health Authorities, company policies, and this document. A copy of all guidance materials, along with this protocol, will always be kept in the vehicle and will be shared with whomever seeks to review it.
  - Ensure that Templates 1 -3 (found on pages 11-13) are completed prior to travelling to and from site
- The above material will be posted in a conspicuous and accessible location at the site.
- Except as required to ensure vehicle safety and the safety of others, or for short rest stops on the side of the road with no non-staff people present, staff are not permitted to leave the travel vehicle between the point of origin and the exploration site.
- All trips and transportation are to be planned to minimize the number of passengers per vehicle, as appropriate.
- If travelling with more than one person in the vehicle workers are to utilize face masks or coverings.
- Before departing from the point of origin, staff are to ensure that the vehicle is equipped with:
  - four bottles or equivalent quantity of water per person
  - the equivalent of two meals per person
  - at least 50 ml of hand sanitizer per person



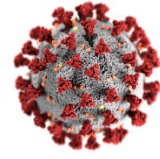
- two non-surgical masks or face coverings per person
- two sets of gloves per person; and
- toilet paper and either (a) one portable toilet; or a shovel and a garbage bag for safe disposal of personal waste.
- All staff are to ensure proper hand washing prior to and after riding in the vehicle and at appropriate intervals during the trip, or clean hands with a hand sanitizer if soap and water is unavailable.
- The interior of all the vehicles are to be wiped down with appropriate disinfectant prior to and after riding in the vehicle.

### **Physical Distancing**

- Two (2) metre physical distancing between individuals should be implemented for interactions at all times if possible. Achieving this will require a variety of actions to decrease crowding and social interaction, such as staggering meal-times and cancelling group activities. Additional measures should be implemented in specific areas where it is foreseeable that physical distancing will be challenging.

#### **Areas with Potential Challenges for Physical Distancing with recommendations:**

- Kitchen and Dining areas: see section on Safe Food Handling
- Passenger Vehicles including Automotive, Aircraft (float planes, helicopters) and Boat
  - Surgical masks should be worn during travel, if more than one person in the vehicle
  - Disinfect surfaces before and after travel, particularly high touch surfaces.
- Recreational Vehicles, particularly Side by Side (UTV)
  - Surgical masks should be worn during travel, if more than one person in the vehicle
  - Disinfect surfaces before and after travel, particularly high touch surfaces.
  - Each rider must have their own helmet; no sharing of helmets.
- Sleep tents
  - If possible, one person per unit
  - If not possible, ensure beds are greater than 2 metres apart
    - Consider a portable room divider to reduce co-mingling of personal items
  - Disinfect shared surfaces daily, at a minimum (i.e. door handles)
- Office and core shacks
  - Limit sharing of equipment, sanitize equipment between users if equipment must be shared.
  - Masks must be worn when physical distancing of at least 2 m is not achievable

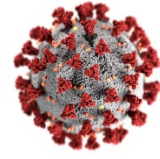


### **Typical Infection Control Supplies**

- Hand washing supplies and hand cleaning gels
- Appropriate cleaning supplies (bleach, disinfectant wipes, etc.)
- Non-surgical masks or face coverings
- Disposable gloves
- For the first responder
  - N95 respirators, eye protection (goggles or face shield), disposable gowns and gloves
- Supplies of N95 respirators are currently limited and you may not have the opportunity to be fit tested on a respirator before use. Even without fit testing, a respirator will provide better protection than a facemask or using no respirator at all. The links below provide advice on conducting a seal check of a N95 respirator.
  - *Proper N95 Respirator Use for Respiratory Protection Preparedness*. The link is [here](#)
  - or, the video: *How to Perform a User Seal Check with an N95 Respirator*. The link is [here](#)

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

- High-touch areas in the camp, such as toilets, bedside tables, door handles, light switches, taps, countertops, mobile devices/radios and keyboards, should be disinfected at least once daily and preferably twice daily with an agent effective against coronavirus.
- Corona viruses are enveloped viruses, meaning they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant product. The types of disinfectants that can be used include:
  - 500 parts per million chlorine solution: 1:100 [e.g. mix 10 ml household bleach (5.25%) with 990 ml water]
  - Accelerated hydrogen Peroxide (0.5%)
  - Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QUATs)ii
- When selecting a disinfectant, ensure that the product has a DIN number. Always check the manufacturer's information to ensure that the product is effective against coronaviruses. Follow product instructions for dilution and contact time. Unless otherwise stated on the product, use a detergent to clean surface of all visible debris prior to application of disinfectant.
- Health Canada has a link to "Hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers (COVID-19): List of disinfectants for use against COVID-19" [here](#).
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also released a list of registered disinfectant products that have qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The list is available [here](#)



### **Support Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**

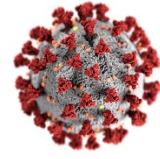
- Supporting workers to engage in hand hygiene helps prevent or reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other illness. Work camp operators should ensure easy access to hand hygiene facilities throughout camps, either through hand hygiene stations or the provisions of hand sanitizer.
- Hands should be cleaned frequently with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol) or soap and water. Note that if a person's hands have dirt or food or anything else on them, they should use soap and water because hand sanitizer may not work. If hands are visibly soiled and running water is not available, it is acceptable to use hand wipes to remove dirt and then use hand sanitizer.
- Hand hygiene is most important at the following times:
  - Before eating or preparing food
  - After coughing, sneezing, or blowing one's nose
  - Before and after contact with an ill person
  - After touching "high touch" and/or dirty surfaces such as taps and doorknobs and after going to the bathroom
- Respiratory etiquette is also essential in preventing the spread of illness. The key elements of respiratory etiquette are:
  - Covering cough/sneeze with a sleeve or tissue
  - Disposing of used tissues in garbage
  - Cleaning hands after coughing or sneezing
- Operators of work camps can support respiratory hygiene by educating workers on its importance and by providing tissues.

### **Safe Food Handling**

Germs from ill people (or from contaminated surfaces) can be transferred to food. During an outbreak, facilities should reinforce routine food safety and sanitation practices. Where possible, implement measures to minimize handling of shared food and items that may touch another person's food, such as:

- Consider providing pre-packaged hot meals to be taken back to rooms/sleeping quarters rather than eating in common areas
- Where common areas are used ensure appropriate physical distancing
- Consider staggering eating/break times to enhance physical distancing
- Discontinue self-serve buffet lines—have designated staff dispense food.
- Minimize handling of multiple sets of cutlery.
- Remove shared food containers from dining areas (e.g. shared pitchers of water, shared coffee cream dispensers, salt & pepper shakers, ketchup, mustard, etc.).
- Dispense snacks directly to staff/clients and use pre-packaged snacks only.
  - Ensure that food handling staff:
    - Practice good hand hygiene
    - Do not work in food handling areas if they are ill
- Ensure that all surfaces of the tables and chairs (including the underneath edge of the chair seat) are cleaned and disinfected after each meal.





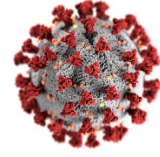
## **Laundry**

- Use precautions when doing laundry. Contaminated laundry should be placed into a laundry bag or basket with a plastic liner.
- Gloves and a surgical/procedural mask should be worn when in direct contact with bags that contain potentially contaminated laundry.
- Clothing and linens belonging to the ill person should be washed separately using regular laundry soap and hot water (60-90°C).
- Laundry should be thoroughly dried.
- Hand hygiene should be performed after handling contaminated laundry and after removing gloves. If the laundry container comes in contact with contaminated laundry, it can be disinfected using a diluted bleach solution.

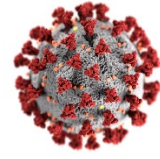
## **Managing Individuals who Become Sick**

### **Isolation in Camp:**

- Daily temperature monitoring is necessary, and recording is suggested. If your temperature is above 37.5°C it should be reported to the project manager.
- Designate an area in camp where personnel displaying COVID-19 symptoms can self-isolate. They should be allowed to self-isolate and call 811 for further advice. Advise the rest of the team that a person is currently isolated.
  - If you have technical issues with accessing HealthLine 811 by dialing 811, call 1-877-800-0002 to be connected with HealthLine 811.
- Designate one person to deliver food, supplies to the isolated individual. The designate must wear the following PPE: surgical mask (N95), gloves and safety goggles. The mask and gloves must be disposed of following the interaction and the safety goggles disinfected. During the disinfection a fresh pair of gloves must be worn and then discarded. If possible, one bathroom facility should be designated for the isolated individual(s) use.
- Persons in self-isolation should place dishes outside of their room for pick-up. Disposable gloves can be used by individuals who are picking-up and handling these dishes. Dishes used by individuals in isolation should be cleaned and sanitized immediately. Ordinary cleaning and sanitation procedures for dishes are sufficient for killing the virus. Please note that the use of disposable plates and cutlery by ill staff/clients is not required during outbreaks.
- It is possible that the sick person may need to be transported home; in which case transportation protocols should be followed.
  - If evacuation is necessary then you should call 811 for advice on the safest measure for the Pilot/driver to take.
  - If you have technical issues with accessing HealthLine 811, call 1-877-800-0002 to be connected with HealthLine 811.
  - When employees go home sick, their work areas must be cleaned and disinfected.
- Communicate the status of the individual with the appropriate company personnel.



# DRAFT TEMPLATES



## 1. COVID-19 Pre and Post Camp Self-Assessment Checklist

Please Answer All Questions	Yes	No
1. Are you experiencing any of the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Cough</li> <li>• Sneezing</li> <li>• Sore Throat</li> <li>• Difficulty Breathing</li> </ul>		
2. Have you or anyone from your household travelled outside Canada in the past 14 days?		
3. Did you provide care or have close contact with a person with COVID-19 (probable or confirmed) within the past 14 days?		
4. Did you have close contact with a person who travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days?		
<p>If you responded yes to any of <b>questions 1, 2, 3</b> you <b>must self-isolate</b> according to the guidance of Saskatchewan Public Health recommendations <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>If you responded yes to <b>question 4</b>, you should closely <b>self-monitor</b> yourself according to the guidance of Saskatchewan Public Health recommendations <a href="#">here</a></p>		

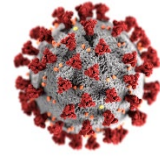
**If you have answered yes to any of the above questions, you must not travel to or from the site.**

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by (Supervisor or Project Manager): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



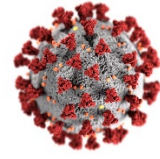
## 2. Vehicle Window Signage

I am an employee or contractor of **XXXX** travelling to / from the **XXXX** site, located approximately **XXXX** km from **XXXX** community.

Except as required to ensure vehicle safety and the safety of others, I will not exit the vehicle **at any time**, except for brief, isolated, road-side breaks, until I arrive at our site.

My travel has been reported to **XXXX** (ex. North West Incident Command Centre).

**We thank you** for your work to protect the community and **we support you.**



### 3. Sample Letter of Introduction to Provide to Authorities

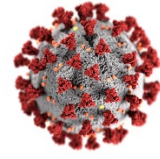
[DATE]

To whom it may concern:

[NAME] holds the position of [NAME of POSITION] with [COMPANY NAME]. [COMPANY NAME] is the operator of the [NAME of EXPLORATION PROJECT] located in Northern Saskatchewan, located at XXXX, X km from the community of XXXX.

Work related travel is necessary for [NAME] to perform duties associated with [NAME of EXPLORATION PROJECT]. [NAME] has travelled from [POINT OF ORIGIN] and is travelling to [NAME of EXPLORATION SITE] and is abiding by [COMPANY NAME] Travel Protocol, a copy of which you may review if desired. [NAME] will be staying at site and will be returning to [POINT OF ORIGIN] in [TIME PERIOD].

[NAME OF EMPLOYEE'S SUPERVISOR] can be contacted at [XXX-XXX-XXXX] if further details are required.



# APPENDIX 1

## Checkpoint & Community Contacts

**Note:** as of May 11, 2020, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency has responsibility for staffing of checkpoints within the NSAD. However, some communities also have checkpoints, which may be operated by any community authority.

Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) link [here](#)

- SPSA Rapid Response Team

Contact: Tyler Harrison - Captain, Rapid Response Team, SPSA, Prince Albert

Cell: 306.930.9471

Email: [tyler.harrison@gov.sk.ca](mailto:tyler.harrison@gov.sk.ca)

- Additional contacts: 24 Hour Information and Local Contacts – call 306.787.9563  
Email: [spsa@gov.sk.ca](mailto:spsa@gov.sk.ca)

**Potential Checkpoint Locations - (note this may change with the updated travel restrictions)**

A-At Hwy 155 & Hwy 956 junction

B-At Hwy 155 & Hwy 165 junction (TBC)

C-At Hwy 2N and Hwy 165W junction

2-On Hwy 903 - 1 km N of Hwy 951

3-Hwy 903 1km north of Hwy 55

4-At Hwy 924 and Hwy 55 junction

5-On Hwy 922 - 15 km N of Hwy 55

6-On Hwy 2N 1 km north of the Hwy 264

7-On Hwy 120 - 48 km N of Hwy 55

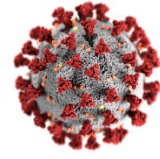
8-On Hwy 106 - 30 km N of Hwy 55

9-On Hwy 123 at EB Campbell Dam

10-On Hwy 106 - 6 km NW of Creighton

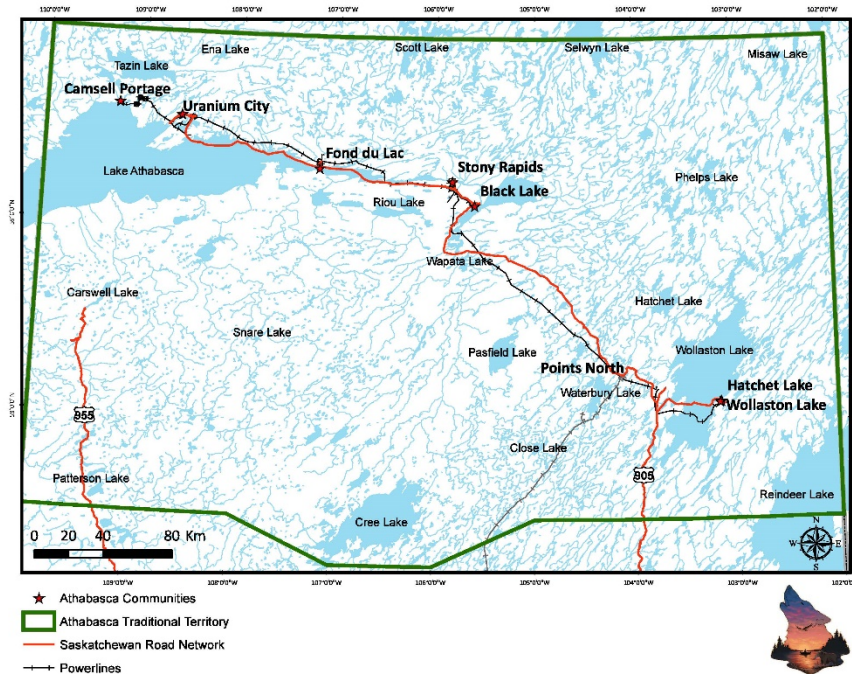
- Please ensure you have contacted your stakeholders prior to initiating projects/travel

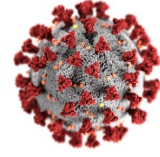
**A couple examples of community checkpoint contacts include**



- **Athabasca Community Checkpoint Contacts (also see map below)**

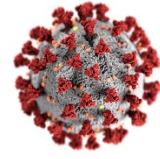
- Hatchet Lake Denesuliné First Nation
  - Chief: Chief Bart Tsannie (306-961-5294)
  - Command Centre: Mary Denechezhe (306-930-6909) or Rosalie Kkailther (306-960-1860)
- Northern Settlement of Wollaston Post
  - Chairperson: Terri Daniels (639-216-7022)
- Black Lake Denesuliné First Nation
  - Chief: Chief Coreen Sayazie (306-981-3489)
  - Command Centre: Pauline Thatcher (306-981-3865)
- Northern Hamlet of Stony Rapids
  - Mayor: Mervin McDonald (306-930-5980)
  - Administrator: Lilian Laprise (306-961-5555)
- Fond du Lac Denesuliné First Nation
  - Chief: Louie Mercredi (306-960-6838)
  - Command Centre: Diane McDonald (306-292-6160)
- Northern Settlement of Uranium City
  - Chairperson: Dean Classen (306-498-2761)
- Northern Settlement of Camsell Portage
  - Chairperson: Claire Laroque (306-230-8967)
- Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources
  - Executive Director: Garrett Schmidt (306-370-3358)





- **La Loche**
  - Mayor Robert St. Pierre Email: [stp\\_robert@hotmail.com](mailto:stp_robert@hotmail.com); Village office: 306.822.2032
  - Martha Morin – Director, La Loche EMO Cell: (306) 822-2223
- **Clearwater River Dene Nation:**
  - Chief Teddy Clarke, Band office: 306.822.2021
- **Beauval:**
  - Mayor Nick Daigneault Village office: 306.288.1002 Email: [mayor.beauval@sasktel.net](mailto:mayor.beauval@sasktel.net)
- **North West Communities Incident Command Centre [here](#)**
  - Contacts: Rick Laliberte and Nap Gardiner.
  - For questions or comments contact Nancy Roy, 306.960.3779





## APPENDIX 2

# COVID – 19 Resource Contact Page

### Government of Canada

- Government of Canada COVID-19 home page [here](#)

### Government of Saskatchewan

- Government of Saskatchewan COVID-19 home page [here](#)
- COVID – 19 Self Assessment Tool [here](#)
- Government of Saskatchewan Public Health Order [here](#)
- Government of Saskatchewan list of Critical Public Services and Allowable Business Services (updated May 11, 2020) [here](#)
- Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan [here](#)
- Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting [here](#)
- List of Saskatchewan PPE Suppliers [here](#)

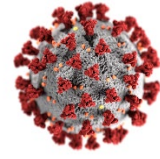
### Saskatchewan Mining Association

- SMA Covid-19 Page [here](#)

### Population Health Unit, Northern Saskatchewan [here](#)

The Northern Saskatchewan Population Health Unit is unique in the province. It is a major collaborative initiative of the **Athabasca Health Authority (AHA)**, **Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority (KYRHA)** and **Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority (MCRRHA)** for shared population health services.

- Dr. Rim Zayed, Medical Health Officer of the Northern Population Health Unit
- Phone: 306.425.8512



- **Athabasca Health Authority** [here](#) (Black Lake, Fond du Lac, Stony Rapids, Uranium City, Camsell Portage, Hatchet Lake)
  - Email: [dgalusha@athabascahealth.ca](mailto:dgalusha@athabascahealth.ca) Phone: 306.439.2200
- **Keewatin Yatthé Region** [here](#) (Beauval, Green Lake, Buffalo Narrows, La Loche, Ile a la Crosse)
  - Phone: 306.235.222
- **Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region** [here](#) (Creighton, La Ronge, Pinehouse, Sandy Bay, Weyakwin)
  - Phone: 306.425.2422
- **Prairie North Health Region** [here](#) (Meadow Lake, North Battleford)
  - Phone: 306.446.6606 or 306.820.6181