



CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS

Kwätsi dän: Our plan to get back to work

*We, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations people and
government,
shall promote a healthy, unified and self-reliant people,
while conserving and enhancing our environment and culture.*

Kwätsi dän: Our plan to get back to work

DÚCH'J SHJ - We are always going to be prepared to do what we must do to ensure the safety of our people. We must remain vigilant, safe and smart.

***Kaaxnox, Dän Nätthe Äda
(Chief Steve Smith)***

COVID-19 has significantly impacted CAFN. While our first priority remains keeping Citizens and staff safe, CAFN would like to work towards getting back to normal operations. To do so, we have set out a path to prepare for the time when the risks of COVID-19 decrease and restrictions can be eased.

As a first step, we have developed a framework to guide our approach. This framework outlines a phased process and the principles and criteria that will inform decisions about reopening CAFN buildings and spaces, services and activities.

Our approach:

Our framework is built on a set of principles and criteria for moving through a series of steps towards slowly and responsibly lifting restrictions. It will outline the initial measures that can be eased, and sets out options for future changes. The framework will enable us to see what we are working towards. The following principles inform the framework:

- Protection of Citizens and staff is paramount.
- Work collaboratively with Yukon, Canada and other YFN's, but allow for an approach that fits CAFN needs.
- Community communications is a key component.
- Be cautious and vigilant.
- Monitoring is ongoing to be responsive to changes in current conditions.

The COVID Coordinating Committee will review status every two weeks and make a recommendation about the progressive lifting of restrictions in a stepped process.

The following criteria will be used by the COVID Coordinating Committee to evaluate the ability to move between steps:

- Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health's recommendations and requirements guide decisions.
- There is continued ability to deliver services to Citizens in a safe manner.
- Required guidance and protocols are available for each step.
- Actions are aligned with partner governments.

Guidance documents:

Our workplaces need to be prepared to protect the health and safety of staff and citizens. Guidelines and protocols are required to support activities identified in each step. For example, each sector of CAFN staff – construction, water delivery, support workers, day care, camps, etc. may have distinct requirements regarding PPE, cleaning, distancing, etc. CAFN staff policies may require updates to address the current situation.

Other efforts:

There is additional work required to support the success of this plan.

Communications: Ongoing development and updating of CAFN’s communications materials is required to ensure we can continue to deliver clear and consistent messages to Citizens and staff.

Politics: CAFN must consistently bring forward CAFN perspectives and priorities to Yukon Government to inform the development of territorial policies that support the needs of CAFN Citizens and government.

Economics: An economic recovery plan is to be developed that stimulates economic activities and creates opportunities for CAFN Citizens and businesses.

Steps:

A stepped approach will allow for a gradual and well-planned return to ‘normal’. There is a need to consider and define what activities will be permitted, and what safety measures need to be in place, for each step. This includes: allowing staff to continue to work from home or in the office with physical distancing, travel restrictions, opening the day care and other services, allowing for gatherings with specified limited numbers, and safety practices that need to continue (hand-washing, social distancing, etc.).

Every two weeks the COVID Coordinating Committee will review the current status and the potential or requirement to move to the next step. In the case of perceived heightened risks, such as a second wave of COVID-19, a decision may be made to move back to a more restrictive step. CAFN will continue to monitor risks and adjust as required.

As we move closer to a return to normal operations, this is an opportunity to reflect on actions taken and lessons learned, and incorporate these into future emergency planning and preparedness.