



COMMUNITY NOTICE

For Immediate Release:

Enniska/February 19, 2020

COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING FEB. 19, 2020

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne wishes to share information with the community as it becomes available pertaining to the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) outbreak and plans to use the NAV Centre in Cornwall as a quarantine site.

On Feb. 16, MCA attended a meeting with Cornwall officials to debrief on the sudden plans announced by the federal government to use NAV Can for evacuees from the quarantined Diamond Princess ship in Japan.

On Feb. 17, MCA attended a press conference hosted at NAV Centre. A panel that consisted of Cornwall Mayor Bernadette Clement, NAV Canada official Rebecca Hickey, Public Health Agency of Canada representative Dr. Howard Njoo, and Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, the Medical Officer of Health with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) responded to questions from the media.

The press conference questions and answers provided the following clarity:

- Trenton, Ontario is the primary quarantine site for those evacuated from Asia due to the coronavirus; however that site is currently at capacity and second location was required. The Federal Government has an agreement with the NAV Centre for use of the facility.
- The quarantined passengers will be screened before they can be released to board the Canadian chartered flight home. They will be screened AGAIN in Trenton, Ontario upon arrival and only passengers without symptoms of the virus will be transferred to NAV Centre in Cornwall.
- The quarantine area at NAV Centre is a building separate from the main facility, connected by tower and tunnel. Fencing and signage, as well as security, will ensure the quarantine area is isolated from the public.
- The novel coronavirus is spread by droplets, which are not airborne but which fall to the ground. Coughing and sneezing can project the droplets up to 2 metres, so it is recommended to avoid close contact with anyone who is sick. Droplets can remain on surfaces, so disinfecting is also recommended.
- Dr. Paul Roumeliotis of the EOHU toured the NAV Centre and quarantine area and stated, "I can tell you that I'm very comfortable, as is my team, who are infection control experts, that the procedures in place will adequately protect the passengers coming from abroad, but very importantly, the staff at the Nav Centre and Cornwall and the surrounding area."



- A medical clinic will be set up at NAV Centre to treat quarantined travellers who have other medical issues arise. If the travellers show signs of the novel coronavirus, they will be transferred to the Trenton military hospital. They will not stay at NAV Centre.

MCA has received the following additional information:

- The U.S. Customs has guidelines in place and will not allow non-Americans or tribal members to enter the U.S. territory if they've been to China in the past 14 days. Americans and tribal members who have returned recently from China will be placed into secondary inspection for Center for Disease Control & Prevention to determine if the virus is present or if the individual should enter quarantine.
- Canada Border Services Agency has issued the following notice for travellers on their website, which applies to anyone travelling from the Hubei province in China where the outbreak began: Travellers returning to Canada from **Hubei province, China**, may have come in contact with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. Inform a CBSA officer whether you have travelled to this area or if you have a fever, a cough or difficulty breathing. If you develop these symptoms within 14 days of your arrival in Canada, contact your healthcare provider. They need to know about your recent return from China.

On Feb. 18, Public Health Canada released the following:

Public Health Key Messages

- The health and safety of all Canadians—both those abroad and those in Canada—is our top priority.
- The Government of Canada is assisting Canadians who are currently quarantined on the Diamond Princess cruise ship docked in Yokohama, Japan.
- We are taking action to return Canadians home from on board the Diamond Princess, while ensuring measures are in place to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus.
- The Government of Canada has secured a chartered aircraft to bring passengers directly from Japan to Canada.
- This decision was taken because of the extraordinary circumstances faced by
- passengers on the Diamond Princess and to lighten the burden on the Japanese
- healthcare system.
- The Government of Canada is working closely with the Carnival Cruise Line and the Government of Japan.
- Passengers will be screened for symptoms before boarding the plane. Those who exhibit symptoms will not be permitted to board the plane and will instead be transferred to the Japanese health system to receive appropriate care. We are confident in the ability of the Japanese health care system to provide care for Canadians experiencing symptoms.
- The aircraft will bring passengers from Japan to Canadian Forces Base Trenton, where they will be assessed before being transported to the Nav Centre in Cornwall, Ontario. Out of an abundance of caution, all returning Canadians will undergo a further quarantine of 14 days upon arrival in Canada.



- The Government of Canada has deployed three officials from the Public Health Agency of Canada to assist Canadians who are in quarantine in Japan either on the Diamond Princess cruise ship or in a land-based quarantine facility, as well as those who are currently in hospital undergoing treatment.
- This is in addition to the experts from the Canadian Armed Forces medical personnel, and members of the Standing Rapid Deployment Team, who are on the ground in Tokyo to assist Canadians at this difficult time.
- The risk to Canadians within Canada remains low. We have measures in place to
- protect the health and safety of Canadians here at home and those who are returning.
- This is an evolving situation and we are committed to providing Canadians with new information as it becomes available.

See the additional Q & A below from Public Health Canada.



Q: Why was the Nav Centre in Cornwall chosen, instead of CFB Trenton?

The accommodations at CFB Trenton are currently at capacity because of the previous repatriation efforts. The Nav Centre was chosen because there are existing supports to coordinate processing and provide support services for all the repatriated Canadians coming from Japan. It also has a facility available to house individuals in separate accommodations.

These Canadians will have been through a stressful experience over the past couple of weeks. During the 14 days at the Nav Centre, we will offer social support as well as mental health services given the stressful experiences that many of these passengers will have undergone.

Q: How many Canadians are on board the cruise ship? How many will be on the flight returning to Canada?

There are APPROX 250 Canadians on board the cruise ship. It is not known at this time, how many Canadians will be on the flight.

We will continue to provide more information on travel plans for Canadians on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan as it becomes available.

Q: If an individual is showing signs of COVID-19, will they be allowed to board the plane?

All departing passengers will be required to pass through a health screening. Canadians showing symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to board the plane and will instead be transferred to the Japanese health system to receive appropriate care.

In addition, a Canadian health team will conduct health assessments on the ground before individuals board the plane to ensure that they are fit for flight and are not showing any symptoms. Individuals with fever, cough or difficulty breathing will not be permitted to board the aircraft.

Q: What work is being conducted by the deployed officials from the Public Health Agency of Canada in Japan?



The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has mobilized three experts to support Global Affairs Canada and working with the Canadian Armed Forces medical team in assisting Canadians who are in quarantine in Japan either on the Diamond Princess cruise ship or in a land-based quarantine facility, as well as those who are currently in hospital undergoing treatment.

This includes a Senior Medical Advisor with extensive expertise in public health and emergency management to:

- work with local authorities and other international teams to support the Canadians onboard the cruise ship;
- oversee any quarantine measures that are implemented if Canadian passengers are moved off the ship to land-based quarantine facilities; and
- function as a liaison to provide updated information regarding the Canadian cases currently hospitalized in Japan.

It also includes an expert in public health emergency management to support the Canadians in quarantine and an epidemiologist to provide analysis of data to inform public health decision-making.

Q: What is being done to ensure that these repatriated Canadians do not pose an infectious disease risk to Canadians?

All repatriated Canadians will be assessed for symptoms and signs of illness throughout the flight and when they arrive in Canada.

Passengers showing flu symptoms will be transferred to the provincial health system for treatment following all appropriate precautions.

Passengers who are not showing symptoms of novel coronavirus will remain at the Nav Centre for 14 days for further health assessment and observation.

To date, we have been able to detect any cases within Canada, to treat them appropriately and to quickly share information across jurisdictions in Canada to limit the spread of the virus. Our health system is working exactly as it should. The risk of spread of this virus within Canada remains low.

Q: What other measures is the Government of Canada taking to support repatriated Canadians once they land?

The health and safety of those we are bringing home from Japan is a priority. The Government of Canada recognizes that this is not an easy situation for the individuals being repatriated; mental and social support services will be made available to ensure that both their physical and mental wellbeing are taken care of while they remain at the Nav Centre.



A welcome package will be provided to all passengers, providing general information about their stay.

Emergency medical assistance teams from the province of Ontario will provide onsite primary care, including social services, and each traveller will also receive a daily health assessment. A negative pressure room will be available to assess any individual displaying symptoms.

The repatriated Canadians will have access to outdoor leisure time on a daily basis, within specific boundaries and at specific times. There is an area at the Nav Centre that is reserved for these individuals and assisting staff only for that purpose. When outside, individuals will be asked to maintain a two-metre distance from others and to wear a mask and gloves.

Q: If the repatriated Canadians staying at the Nav Centre are allowed outside their rooms, what measures will be in place to ensure that they are not at risk of spreading the virus?

Unless otherwise notified, quarantined individuals and families will be asked to stay in their room for the duration of the quarantine period of 14 days. The repatriated Canadians will have access to outdoor leisure time on a daily basis, within specific boundaries and at specific times.

Quarantined individuals will be asked to maintain a two-metre distance from others, and to wear a mask and gloves while outside. Washing hands and/or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after leaving their rooms is also advised.

The Government of Canada has contracted with a private security firm to provide 24/7 security within the lodgings at Nav Centre, including controlling access in and out of the buildings housing individuals under quarantine.

The contracted security firm will ensure that individuals under quarantine remain within controlled areas and restrict entry to those who do not have authorized access.

Q: What are the next steps following the 14-day quarantine of the repatriated Canadians? How is the Government of Canada supporting their return to their homes and communities?

Each repatriated Canadian, as well as staff and support personnel on the flight, will leave the Nav Centre with a travel plan and appropriate follow-ups with local public health agencies.

We need to ensure that they are treated with respect, and cared for following a long journey home and time at the Nav Centre facility.



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will continue to share information as it receives it. There are no recommendations to the community at this time aside from continuing to practice general flu-prevention measures such as the following:

VIRUS PREVENTION TIPS

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people. (Viruses that are droplet based, such as the flu or novel coronavirus can spread up to 2 metres from a person's cough.)
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- If you are sick with flu symptoms, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. (When a tissue is unavailable, sneeze or cough into your arm.)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu. (Phones and doorknobs for example.)