



Town of Hay River COVID-19 Continuity Planning

March 16, 2020

Pandemic Governance



Municipal Government



Territorial Government



Federal Government

Healthcare – Alerts from local health authority, territorial and federal governments

- HRHSSA

- <https://www.facebook.com/Hay-River-Regional-Health-Centre-1454565548205248/>

- GNWT

- <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

- Federal Government

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

What is coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and What are the Symptoms?



Human coronaviruses are common and are typically associated with mild illnesses, similar to the common cold.



The new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is caused by a virus producing mild to severe respiratory infections.



Symptoms of the COVID-19 include fever, dry cough, sore throat, headache, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, and pneumonia. Difficulty breathing is a sign of possible pneumonia that requires prompt medical attention.



Call your community health centre and talk to your health care provider if you are experiencing symptoms and have recently visited affected areas or have been in contact with others who have and who are sick.

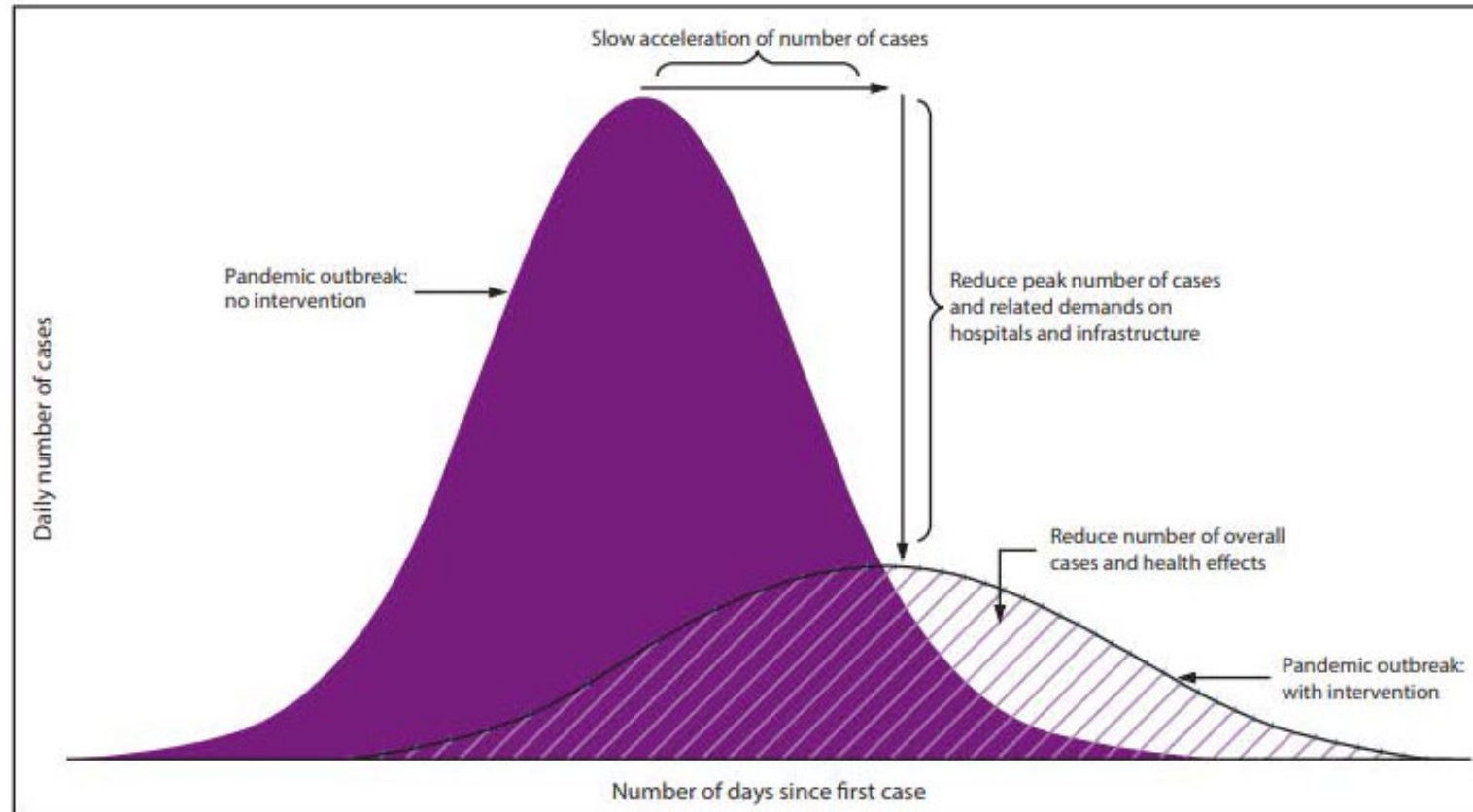


Current Situation

Areas in Canada with cases of COVID-19 as of March 16, 2020, 9 am EST

Province, territory or other	Number of confirmed cases	Number of probable cases
British Columbia	73	0
Alberta	56	0
Saskatchewan	1	5
Manitoba	4	3
Ontario	145	0
Quebec	39	0
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	1
New Brunswick	1	5
Nova Scotia	0	3
Prince Edward Island	1	0
Repatriated travellers	4	0
Total cases	324	17

Figure 1: Goal of Public Health Measures



Source: Adapted from: CDC. Interim pre-pandemic planning guidance: community strategy for pandemic influenza mitigation in the United States—early, targeted, layered use of nonpharmaceutical interventions. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2007. <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/11425>.

Considerations for remote and isolated communities

- **Transmission of virus in public gatherings**
- The potential for spread of infection during public gatherings may put undue strain on already limited resources in remote and isolated (RI) communities.
- **Strategies to consider:**
- Communities should consider the presence of illness in the community, as well as the availability of health care providers, basic medical supplies, medications, isolation beds/rooms to assist them in deciding whether or not to cancel or postpone public gatherings.

Municipal continuity planning



1. IDENTIFY ALL THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY. ASK BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO IDENTIFY THE ONES THEY PROVIDE.



2. IDENTIFY CAPACITY TO DELIVER THE IDENTIFIED ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND ANY BACK-UP STAFF.



3. IDENTIFY ACTIONS THAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO PREVENT/MITIGATE IMPACTS TO STAFF AND RESPOND TO STAFF SHORTAGES TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF THE SERVICE.



Essential Services

- Executive governance (the mayor, or his/her designee, who is in charge and has the authority to make executive decisions and enact policies)
- Healthcare – (HRHSSA / Chief Public Health Officer)
- Fire protection
- Provision of clean water
- Basic sanitation, including sewage and garbage removal
- Maintenance of utilities in cooperation with services providers (e.g., electricity)
- Transportation (eg., airport maintenance)
- Road maintenance/repair
- Banking
- Payroll departments
- Tax collection



Third Party Services Essential for Community Health and Safety



Healthcare



Policing



Maintenance of communication infrastructure (e.g., telephone system, radio, internet)



Provision of food and other essential goods (food and other supplies that a community needs to survive)



Maintenance of utilities (e.g., electricity)



Transportation (eg., airport maintenance)



Food and other goods supply



Income and social security

Recommended Actions



Council/Committee meetings broadcast but closed to public and held as required (consider holding remotely) – Council Chambers set up for social distancing, staff call in, no Town business travel and safe hygiene practices.



Town Hall Office – encourage remote access to Town business through website – close or limit hours – remote work from home for staff where possible



Community Centre and recreation facilities – closed to public effective immediately until April 14th or further notice – workers maintain social distancing and use PPE or work from home if an option



Visitor Centre – closed to public until April 14th or further notice



Protective Services – Firehall closed to public until April 14th or further notice – first response services will continue and responders follow pandemic protocols



Public Works – Essential services (water, sewer, etc.) to continue at current levels with workers maintaining social distancing and use of PPE. Council to be involved in decisions to change service levels due to staffing if required.

Measures to Implement Recommendations

Communication (lead ASAO)

- Employees (Union), general public, suppliers, contractors, etc. on Pandemic protocols (e.g. closures, how to pay bills, etc.)
- Increase website/social media messaging
- Service level changes
- Cancellation policies

Implementation of departmental
business continuity plans

Continuity Plans

Executive Governance

EMS and Fire Protection

Assistant SAO / Communications

Human Resources

Information Technology

Public Works

Bylaw

Recreation

Economic Development and Tourism

Resource Documents

- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (GNWT) – Updated March 11, 2020
- COVID-19 self-isolation information sheet (GNWT) – Updated March 10, 2020
- Healthy Respiratory Practices (GNWT)
- Be Prepared (COVID-19) (Canada)
- COVID-19 Factsheet (Canada)