

COVID-19 Hay River EMO Meeting Notes

ATTENDANCE

Name	ID #	Organization	2-Apr	7-Apr	9-Apr	14-Apr	6-Apr	21-Apr	23-Apr	28-Apr	30-Apr
Anderson, Steve		THR									
Auge, Mike		THR	x	x	x	x	X	x	x		
Baetz, Conrad									x		
Blake- Moore, Mary		S/Slave				x		x	x		
Bouchard, Robert		THR	x	x	x	x	X	x	x		
Bourke, Albert		ENR	x	x	x		X	x	x		
Chambers, Emily		THR									
Colosimo, Tom		ITI			x						
Davie, Colleen									x		
Dohey, Keith		THR									
Duford, Linda		THR									
Eaton, Victor		CCG						x	x		
Gill, Mike		INF									
Goucher, Judy		THR	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Grant, Paul		NTPC	x	x		x					
Griffiths, Erin		Health		x		x	x	x	x		
Groenewegen, Jeff		THR	x	x							
Hagerman, Steve								x	x		
Harris, Mark		DEA			x						
Humbke, Brandon		RCMP	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Jameson, Kandis		THR	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Larocque, Joletta		Housing			x	x	x		x		
Lester, Sandra		Seniors	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Martel, April		KFN							x		
McCowan, Norm		Lands		x	x	x	x	x	x		
McKay, Martine						x	x	x			
McMaster, Craig		Lands					x	x	x		
Miller, Debbie		KFN		x					x		
Nakimayak, Yvonne		MACA						x	x		

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Neil, Tammy		Enterprise				x			x		
Olvera, Gavin		S/Slave									
Piowar, Terry		Housing					x				
Potter, Ross		THR	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Rohit, Chirag		PHO									
Ross, Wendy		WPFN	x	x	x	x	x				
Schaefer, Allan		INF	x	x							
Smith, Glen		THR	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Soucy, Jean		S/Slave	x	x							
Stanley, Ross		NUL		x	x	x	x				
Tybring, Heather		NTPC		x	x						
Whitlock, Greg		Infrastructure	x		x	x	x		x		
Wilkins, Rob		Rangers, CCGA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Willows, Brian		THR	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Wright, Travis		S/Slave									

#	Risk Category	Risk Description	Meeting Notes
1	<b>Medical Services</b>	Inadequate supply of PPE for medical personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal Government investigation the reuse/sterilization of N95 masks</li> <li>If endorsed by the Federal CMHO, DHSS will discuss implementation for the NWT</li> <li>HRF Department to safely store used mask for possible reuse</li> <li>Risk ratings for medical services will be reviewed on a weekly basis</li> <li>Universal masking implemented for staff at Woodland Manor, Supportive Living Services and Dialysis.</li> </ul>
		Inadequate supply of medical equipment to meet patient demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two ventilators at the HRRHC</li> <li>All clinical staff are trained on the one portable ventilator</li> <li>Second ventilator requires a Respiratory Therapist or an Anesthesiologist to operate</li> <li>Will transport second vent to YK if requested</li> <li>Ordered 7 testing machines and will be able to do same day testing for anyone with symptoms (approx. May)</li> <li>No antibodies testing available for NWT at this time.</li> </ul>

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		Inadequate human resources capacity to meet patient demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Aurora College nursing students to be deployed at STH</li> <li>HRHSSA has employees currently self-isolating at home and/or self-monitoring at work</li> <li>HRHSSA is providing the option for employees to work from home, wherever possible</li> </ul>
		HRRHC reaches inpatient capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on Territorial Pandemic Response Plan, HRHSSA may also receive additional Dialysis patients and AHS repatriations</li> <li>Hay River will now accept COVID clients for comfort care (symptom relief) or palliative care; if patients come from other regions, families will be encouraged not to come with them due to accommodation issues</li> <li>Erin and Ross to talk offline re: ground transportation options to support comfort care clients</li> </ul>
		Patient demand exceeds morgue capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 spaces at the HRRHC</li> <li>4 spaces at HHWMH</li> <li>Additional space options within the community?</li> </ul>
		Cancellation of routine services ( <i>this risk added 04/09/20</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Phase will dictate service availability</li> <li>This is a marathon, not a sprint – need to ensure health and social services continue to be provided and people can access the services they require</li> <li>Availability of Specialist services determined by STH</li> <li>Erin reiterated that health services are still available and encourage people to call first and an appointment will be set up, either face to face or virtual</li> <li>Risk rating to stay at 4</li> <li><b>Review of what services can begin again at hospital – slow roll out and proceeding with caution. Working with Territorial partners to evaluate risk.</b></li> </ul>
2	<b>Long Term Care</b>	Confirmation of positive COVID-19 case within Woodland Manor and/or Supportive Living Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently reviewing risk of implementation and impact on PPE stockpile</li> <li>Currently reviewing impact on staffing levels if employees only work at WLM/SLS and not between HRHSSA facilities</li> <li>Health Services will also be looking for accommodations for frontline staff if positive cases are identified</li> </ul>
3	<b>Public Health</b>	Public infection through exposure at local businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many businesses still open; are they essential?</li> <li>Businesses are taking safety measures but how do we enforce compliance? Are they following proper protocol re: gloves/masks etc.</li> <li>WSCC not doing inspections EHO responsible for this however only 1 in Hay River</li> <li>Town is compiling list of essential vs non-essential and what safety protocols are in place</li> <li>Waiting for Dr. Kandola’s office to hear about enforcement.</li> <li>Erin will pass on to the EHO in regard to the grocery stores not having a standard on sanitization and running out of sanitizer.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NWT health officer is recommending the use of cloth face coverings and Erin recommends following the health Canada recommendations.  <a href="https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/create-simple-cloth-face-coverings-help-slow-spread-covid-19-here%E2%80%99s-how">https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/create-simple-cloth-face-coverings-help-slow-spread-covid-19-here%E2%80%99s-how</a></li> <li>Important to continue to educate businesses on protecting staff and public</li> <li>WSSC contacted re: Northmart. Mary to find out if the task force is in operation yet</li> <li>Mayor Jameson to contact Dr. Kandola's office to request EHO rep to attend meetings. Conrad Bates was suggested to attend instead due to unavailability of EHO rep.</li> </ul>
		Public infection through community spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reinforce the importance everyone follows self-isolation protocols</li> <li>Some communication on social media/bulletin boards</li> <li>OCPHO recommending the general public to wear cloth face coverings</li> <li>OCPHO press conference April 10<sup>th</sup> re: enforcement</li> <li>OCPHO order dated April 10<sup>th</sup> re: social gatherings</li> <li>0 cases in Hay River</li> <li>The five confirmed cases to date were travel related and confined</li> <li>Erin to confirm self-isolation process from Dr. Kandola's office and report back at Apr. 16 meeting – process explained that involves contact tracing conducted by the DOH by virtue of disclosure by the patient.</li> </ul>
		Out of town / Territory workers transmit COVID into community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OCPHO order dated April 10<sup>th</sup> re: southern transient workforce entering the Territory</li> </ul>
		Public infection through travel (international, interprovincial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borders closed and working reasonably well so far</li> <li>Concerns raised around incorrect info on social media – should admins be contacted to monitor pages and remove incorrect info?</li> <li>Advise for everyone to refer to current/reliable sources i.e. GNWT/Fed Gov't</li> <li>Risk rating reduced to 2; closure of borders helping</li> <li>Risk rating to be increased to a 6 or 9 due to influx of transient workers arriving over the next several weeks</li> <li>MTS provided detailed plan (approved by Chief Public Health Officer) to the Mayor. It was suggested to also contact Coast Guard, CN for their plans.</li> <li>Judy to create a table listing all gov't organizations, transient crews with arrival dates and total number of people involved.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Seniors/ Vulnerable Population</b>	Access to essential goods/services as well as COVID-19 information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seniors experiencing food shortages have been directed to appropriate organizations in territory for assistance</li> <li>Anglican Church holding food drive on April 4 to assist vulnerable families in need</li> <li>Whispering Willows has prepped some food and handed out to those in need</li> <li>Receiving approx. 60 dz eggs from Polar eggs for distribution to seniors</li> <li>Still require guidance/communication on how to support seniors/vulnerable persons</li> <li>Strongly recommend a local group to address the senior and at-risk population.</li> </ul>

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5	<b>Protective Services (Medical / Fire)</b>	Unable to meet first response demands due to limited personnel capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65% available staff – 21 staff</li> <li>• Temps and medical questionnaires completed daily by staff</li> <li>• Treating each call as though they were exposed to virus</li> <li>• FD members practicing extreme hygiene processes</li> <li>• Obtained 300 additional simple face masks. Provided inventory to MACA</li> <li>• Have increased their screening processes to match what the hospital is doing</li> </ul>
		Inadequate supply of PPE for first responders leads to reduce ability to respond to calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have approx. 1-month supply of PPE</li> <li>• Concerned re: getting more from fed gov't; have back up resources; Travis will also look into and keep them updated</li> <li>• Also monitoring the landfill because of fire last year</li> </ul>
6	<b>Electrical Power/NTPC</b>	Reliable supply of electrical power not maintained due to supply chain restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUL/NTPC/ and CEA have mutual agreements in place to pull resources from outside or within the territory as needed.</li> <li>• Currently have 2 days of fuel in the tank reserve and there is enough in storage to run for quite a while.</li> </ul>
		Reliable supply of electrical power not maintained due to insufficient human resources	
		NTPC Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical projects ongoing</li> <li>• Majority of external contracts have left NWT</li> <li>• Mutual Assistance agreement signed if required</li> <li>• Taltson shutdown planned for next year</li> </ul>
7	<b>Food and Supplies Security</b>	Inadequate food supply due to supply chain restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grocers should have min 30-day supplies in warehouse</li> <li>• Recommend speaking to grocers re: extra water in case of sudden water demand due to river breakup</li> <li>• The town could offer space for non-refrigerated items</li> <li>• Reached out to the grocers about their supply and stock in regard to break-up</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure town food supply is not impacted by food re-supply for MTS, Coast Guard etc. R. Bouchard to contact both grocers to confirm no local concerns and report back at the next meeting – Super A indicated no specific concerns with shortages but noted there has been delivery delays with some grocery items; Awaiting a response from Northmart.</li> <li>• Liquor Regulations Act amended to now limit alcohol purchases</li> <li>• Mayor Jameson spoke to Mr. Andrew Cassidy at ITI re: the agriculture supply due to the temporary closure of the Cargill meat plant in High River, AB. A process is in place and temporary arrangements have been made to allow the NWT to access meat from Prairie Packers in La Crete. There is also a contingency plan in place in case of shortages.</li> <li>• <b>Confirmed that local grocers can purchase directly from Provincially Inspected facilities if they choose to.</b></li> <li>• <b>Fish plant is moving forward and working with local fishers</b></li> </ul>
		Unable to meet public food supply demand due to hoarding purchases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary to look into whether bulk buying is an issue; will also check GNWT and Gov't Canada websites re: preparedness material</li> </ul>
8	<b>Policing and Enforcement</b>	Not enough capacity to enforce orders and public security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contingency plans in place; additional members in division can be redeployed if needed</li> <li>• Working with Public Health Officer re: Quarantine Orders</li> <li>• RCMP can only offer assistance and this is limited</li> <li>• To date: RCMP has assisted with 1 inspection</li> <li>• Brought in a relief member from Yellowknife</li> <li>• New inspectors recruited but currently no update or plan on increasing enforcement in smaller communities</li> <li>• Gov't currently working through protocol on how the RCMP can play greater role in enforcement; more info to follow in the coming weeks</li> </ul>
		Inadequate supply of PPE for law enforcement leading to inability to respond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently have a good supply of PPE; headquarters in YK managing the inventory for HR detachment</li> </ul>
		ENR Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business as usual – is an essential service</li> <li>• Preparing for fire season</li> <li>• Available to address any wildlife concerns</li> <li>• Office is closed to public</li> <li>• Activating emergency call line May 1</li> <li>• Developing safe work practices for workers during fire season.</li> <li>• Enforcement work will continue through the summer.</li> <li>• ENR to be part of new enforcement team; received official appointments this week.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively responding to calls and complaints; presently have 3 staff but may need additional as calls increase.</li> <li>• N. McCowan reported his team currently doing shift work at the checkpoint in Enterprise; have not been deployed to the enforcement team yet.</li> </ul>
9	<b>Transportation</b>	Airport and highways operational but with checkpoints in place to restrict access and document incoming traffic to community while ensuring self-isolation protocols are followed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWT borders closed a few weeks ago</li> <li>• Checkpoints in place and working well – Info is being relayed to health groups re: self-isolation forms etc...</li> <li>• Concerns surrounding border control at Fort Chipewyan after river breakup</li> <li>• Winter schedule in place that offers social distancing – will most likely continue schedule through pandemic</li> <li>• Airport is still operational</li> <li>• Checkpoints still going well at borders, as well as firm self-isolation protocols in place at airport</li> </ul>
10	<b>Emergency Services</b>	High water levels associated with river break-up force evacuation of Vale Island Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting today at town office to discuss evacuation procedures etc.</li> <li>• Identifying resources and working through processes; planning to have more information for the plan end of next week and ready to execute</li> <li>• Is arena an option to house people in the event of an emergency?</li> <li>• Had an internal planning committee and ensure safe practices are in place.</li> <li>• Beginning to execute the plan. Updating information packages and options for circulating. Planned public communication for later this week.</li> <li>• Identified back up for planning team members. Setting up a virtual command center.</li> <li>• Setting up monitoring equipment</li> <li>• Urgent need to have accommodations in place between April 27 – May 15; working with MACA, Rangers, Housing Corporation and National Defense for solutions</li> <li>• Communication sent out to the public this week re: evacuation scenarios</li> <li>• Hope to have results of Vale Island survey by end of the week</li> <li>• Ross keeping an eye on water levels; will have ice readings today or tomorrow</li> <li>• Preparedness packages to be sent to Vale Island residents next week</li> <li>• Currently, targeting 120 rooms in hotels/apts. to be available; 30 households have access to RVs, still require housing for approx. 40 more.</li> <li>• To schedule a special meeting around break up preparedness before Tuesday and have PHO representative in attendance.</li> <li>• Mayor Jameson to talk to MACA about using national defense to review and approve our plan</li> <li>• <b>Glenn presented the emergency preparedness plan to the group and will provide regular updates</b></li> <li>• <b>Securing accommodations continues to be the primary focus; established 3 tier plan which includes: 1) use of local hotels, 2) RV camp, 3) Yellowknife</b></li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was suggested to contact KFN for their flood response plan as it may also have an impact on our accommodations and resources</li> <li>• HRHSSA can assist with the setup of evacuation registration center; Erin to send contact name to Glenn</li> <li>• R. Bouchard asked about the transportation needs and if the hospital’s wheelchair accessible vehicle can be used. He and Erin to discuss.</li> <li>• R. Bouchard asked what the protocol is for calling a ‘local state of emergency’. Mary to seek clarification and provide an update.</li> <li>• MTS awarded tender for 12 self-contained units in new town from April 23 – June 30 for self-isolation purposes</li> <li>• Mayor Jameson will talk to C. Bates re: MTS et al. possibly self-isolating <u>before</u> entering the community (similar to Nunavut’s protocol)</li> <li>• Mayor Jameson has also requested that non-residents be diverted to YK and Ft. Smith for isolation during break-up timeframe – will follow up.</li> <li>• Ross provided the following update on current conditions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RCMP taking pictures at Chinchaga, big change from Apr. 12-19, snow disappearing and levels starting to rise (.8m)</li> <li>○ Nothing significant at border; water on top of ice and along shoreline</li> <li>○ Levels stagnant further up the river</li> <li>○ No changes at Paradise Valley; cameras working great</li> <li>○ Water levels rising at Hay River but not a concern as of yet</li> <li>○ Ice thicker at NTCL</li> <li>○ Pressure Ridge not a problem at this time; ice on lake is still fairly thick</li> <li>○ No camera at Pine Point bridge; West Channels to be up and running by end of this week</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Conrad Baetz attended meeting on behalf of CPHO.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Availability of rooms for potential evacuation is possible – can <i>only</i> reduce the number of self-isolating rooms. (From 55 down to 25)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ross provided update on current conditions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Not a lot of change from Tuesday’s report</li> <li>○ One sensor giving issues on West Channel bridge – to look into</li> <li>○ Business passes delivered to those living on Vale Island</li> <li>○ Hay River Basin numbers are average</li> <li>○ Expecting minor rain/some sun over the next few days. Hay River expecting between 3-6 cm of snowfall on Sunday.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11	<b>Water and Waste Services</b>	Not able to provide safe delivery of water due to human resource restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business as usual while practicing safety protocols</li> <li>• Back-up available if needed due to staffing shortages</li> <li>• Public Works are prepared to inspect the flood gates and ravine. M. Auge to report back when complete.</li> <li>• Due to flooding at Peace River on the weekend, Public Works will ensure reservoirs are ready etc.</li> </ul>



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		Unable to provide garbage collection due to human resource restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-iterated planned mitigation points</li> </ul>
		Unable to provide road clearing and maintenance services due to human resource restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same safety protocols in places as noted above</li> </ul>
12	<b>Fuel Supply</b>	Inadequate local fuel inventory may impact essential service operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No issues currently, fuel trucks still delivering</li> <li>• Ross Stanley noted we have fuel in storage in the case the trucks stop.</li> <li>• Sufficient supply of fuel in storage; Ross Stanley to confirm local fuel supply and provide update at Apr 16 mtg – confirmed there is sufficient local supply, as well as contingency supply.</li> </ul>
13	<b>Economic Stability</b>	Businesses experience operational cashflow issues impacting sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fed Gov't have economic initiatives in place</li> <li>• Need to communicate info to public via social media/bulletin boards</li> <li>• Direction from INF – how do we create work in communities for our local businesses? HR – some work to be completed in schools now that they are vacant</li> <li>• How can we communicate to help people who need assistance and can't afford food? Kandis will touch base with Michelle Stephens (the new head of the soup kitchen) and possibly the friendship center to look into this.</li> <li>• Two local community groups involved with soup kitchens/food drives for the vulnerable sector</li> <li>• Glenn to ensure these programs are well communicated to the vulnerable population</li> <li>• Glen to work with housing re: access to extra cots</li> <li>• More announcements today re: available grants for businesses; new programs also being developed to help as many as possible; important to disseminate this information to businesses</li> <li>• Tides Canada launching 2 rapid-response funds; this will also be communicated to the public</li> </ul>
		Employees are laid off and cannot afford to cover personal expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HR Property tax bills: No immediate financial pressure. Not issued until late May with pymt required end of July. To be revisited if becomes an issue</li> </ul>