

# KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION

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April 26, 2021

## COVID-19 UPDATE TO KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION

We are writing to provide an update on the status of COVID-19 in Kapawe'no First Nation. As of April 22, 2021 there are four active cases of COVID-19 IN THE COMMUNITY. THE Indigenous Services Canada Alberta Region (ISC-AB) Medical Officers of Health (MOH) and Communicable Disease Control (CDC) team has been working closely with Kapawe'no Health staff to undertake an extensive public health investigation inclusive of contact tracing, testing of close contacts and case management.

We know it has been a long and difficult year, and we want to commend all members of Kapawe'no, the Nation's leadership and public health staff for their work to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Please note, ISC-AB is supporting Kapawe'no with nursing support as the recruiting process continues for a permanent nurse in the community. We appreciate your continued patience as we work to ensure staff are in place to support a comprehensive COVID-19 response.

We know the public health measures that are in place have been hard, especially for the most vulnerable community members. Despite these hardships, public health measures such as masking, avoiding household gatherings and isolating when needed are effective at decreasing transmission of COVID-19 B.1.1.7 variant cases which spread faster and can lead to more serious health outcomes. As such, continued **ADHERENCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES IS ESSENTIAL AT THIS TIME**. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or who tests positive for the virus is required to isolate to prevent further spread.

Front line staff continue to work hard to ensure your health and safety, and it is important that you exercise patience and cooperation in any public health investigations. While this can present difficulties, we ask that you please be kind and understanding when health staff reach out to you. While we are all tired of this pandemic, front line staff have been working tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of you and your family and we ask they are treated with respect and compassion as we continue to rely on them to support a community COVID-19 response.

The ISC-AB MOH and Communicable Disease Control teams remain committed to supporting your Nation's health team with the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine. Immunization is one of the most important measures that can be taken to stop the spread of COVID-19 over the long term and for the protection of the most vulnerable members of the community. Once 80% of adults in the community receive the vaccine, there is a much better chance of limiting widespread outbreaks of COVID-19

I have also attached information regarding the COVID-19 testing for all members and staff of Kapawe'no and Kapown Center.

Your health and safety remains our priority. Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work together during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Chief Sydney Halcrow  
Kapawe'no First Nation



# COVID-19 TESTING

Kapawe'no First Nation COVID-19 testing is available for **all community members** and **employee's** who are living and/or working on the Kapawe'no First Nation. This also includes **family members of employee's** who may reside off reserve.

**Testing is free and is not mandatory – it is available if you want it.**

## AVAILABLE TESTING

### RAPID COVID-19 Test (BD Veritor System)

This test is available and recommended for:

- ▶ Members returning from travelling outside of the High Prairie area.
- ▶ Employee's of KFN or KRC that have been away from work for longer than 4 days.

If your Rapid result is **NEGATIVE**, please understand that this is a point-in-time result. Meaning, it does not guarantee that you are **NOT** infected with COVID-19 and you may still spread it to others. Please continue to follow all public health guidance and directions to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

### ABBOTT: ID NOW COVID-19 Test

This test is available and recommended if:

- ▶ You are a close contact to a **POSITIVE** COVID-19 case
- ▶ You are living in the same household as a **POSITIVE** COVID-19 case
- ▶ You or anyone in your household is experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms  
(Refer to Alberta Health Services website: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17260.aspx>)

### COVID-19 SWAB Test

This test is available and recommended if:

- ▶ You are experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms
- ▶ You received any **POSITIVE** result from the Rapid Test

It is required for all **ABBOTT ID NOW** users to receive the Swab Test regardless of a **NEGATIVE** or **POSITIVE** result.

**To request a COVID-19 Test Contact Lyle Halcrow**

**Text or phone: (780) 536-6008**

**Email: [lyle.halcrow@kapaweno.ca](mailto:lyle.halcrow@kapaweno.ca)**