

Environmental Health/Health Protection Unit
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April 7, 2020

Dear Members of the Hutterite Community,

Due to uncertain and difficult times that we are experiencing while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, Manitoba Health - Health Protection Unit is forwarding this letter to all Hutterite Communities to provide clarity for actions to be taken to reduce the chance of exposing yourself and your family members to COVID-19. Please know that keeping your family safe and limiting the exposure of COVID-19 is the utmost importance at this time. Please ensure that the following practices are followed to help you and your community deal with this on-going pandemic:

- 1) Immediately cease communal meals above and beyond the 10 person limit as per the Public Health Orders issued by the Chief Public Health Officer. Meals should be eaten at each family's homes in order to practice physical distancing. Meals may be picked up at communal kitchens while practicing physical distancing. Sit at least 2 meters apart from each person while eating. Do not provide family style meals or buffet meals as this increases the chance of one person transferring the virus to another person by using the same utensils. Provide individual plates of food for each person.
- 2) Practice physical distancing. This includes the following:
 - a. Do not allow children to play at each other homes or with each other unless they can stay 2 meters apart while playing.
 - b. Do not invite neighbours to socialize at your house or to share a meal with you and your family.
 - c. Ensure that any persons having a conversation are at least 2 meters away from any each other during the conversation.
- 3) Cease group worship services with more than the amount of people indicated in the Public Health Orders issued by the Chief Public Health Officer. Provide worship services over public address (PA) systems or via other types of communication while staying in your own home.

- 4) Wash your hands frequently and practice proper hand washing by using hand soap, scrub for 20 to 30 seconds, and dry hands with a paper towel. Do not share hand towels as hand towels can easily transfer virus from one person to another. Use hand sanitizer if hand washing facilities are not available.
- 5) Self-isolate individuals that show any sign or symptoms of COVID-19. Please know that there are individuals that can carry COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms.
- 6) Cover coughs and sneezes properly so that that droplets do not get into the air.
- 7) Limit your time outside of the community and any contact with other people.
- 8) Limit any visitors into the community.

Please understand that your community and individuals in your community must comply with the Public Health Orders that are issued by the Chief Public Health Officer. Failure to comply may result in a fine for individuals that is not more than \$100,000 or six months in jail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. LeBlanc".

Mike LeBlanc, BSc, CPHI(C)
Chief Public Health Inspector

c Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Hon Cameron Friesen, Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living