



# Tseshahat First Nation

October 5, 2020

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## STATEMENT

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### **ALBERNI DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL COVID-19 EXPOSURE**

On behalf of Tseshahat First Nation Council, Administration and Emergency Operations Centre, we want to reassure our community members that we are aware of the recent COVID-19 exposure at Alberni District Secondary School (ADSS) and the Huu-ay-aht Child and Family Wellness Centre in Port Alberni and are working with appropriate health authority and school district personnel to coordinate our response efforts.

Tseshahat Administration is taking precautions to keep our community and staff safe. As such, offices remain closed to the public and arrangements have been made for staff to work remotely. This is not a permanent measure, and we are committed to keeping our membership informed as updates on the pandemic situation arise. We are working to practice safety to the best of our ability to protect our Elders and members of our community who have a compromised immune system. This closure is a significant part of our efforts to keep all of our families and loved ones safe and to lower the risk of the virus spreading through our community. It is important to recognize that having the virus spread through our community could have devastating impacts; particularly for those who hold significant knowledge of our language and knowledge of cultural practices.

We recognize that many of our staff have children or members of their household who attend ADSS as well as close family and friends who are Huu-ay-aht members and are working to keep the risk of virus spread minimal. We understand that Island Health has contacted all individuals who have had direct exposure to the confirmed cases. We are working to coordinate a meeting with the School District to clarify their response efforts and protocols. Additional communication will be issued once that meeting has taken place.

At this time, we encourage our community members to be extra vigilant in self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms, and in the event you experience symptoms, immediately self isolate and seek testing. We encourage all of our community members to continue preventative measures in efforts to keep our community and staff safe (frequent hand washing/use of hand sanitizer, physical distancing, wearing a mask in public spaces, coughing/sneezing into your elbow, etc.). Links to resources regarding symptoms, testing and prevention are provided below for reference:

- <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/symptoms-testing-and-isolation>
- <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks>

We appreciate your support in keeping our community and staff safe during these unprecedented and uncertain times. ■

### **Tseshahat First Nation**

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