



Re: COVID 19 Tuktoyaktuk

January 7th 2022

BDDEC Parents & Guardians,

The Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council has decided to extend the school closure Jan 10-14th. The COVID-19 situation in the Northwest Territories (NWT) continues to evolve and we are seeing rapidly rising case numbers. As of January 6, the NWT had the highest number of infections recorded in a 24-hour period ever in the NWT, and there are infections in every region. I want to emphasize that every school in the NWT has safety guidelines in place that were approved by the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) and that these measures are in place to limit the introduction and transmission of COVID 19. I would like to acknowledge the efforts that our students, families and staff have made to keep schools safe thus far. Recognizing, however, that the COVID 19 situation has potential to grow we have decided to temporarily shift to remote learning in Tuktoyaktuk. We are tentatively scheduled to reopen on **Monday January 17th 2022.**

Panbio testing kits for COVID 19 screening are available in Tuktoyaktuk via Principal Ephraim Warren at ephraimw@bdec.nt.ca. Screening kits should be used prior to students returning to school within 24 hours. The Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council is in regular contact with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to ensure that all necessary steps are followed to keep our students and staff safe and provide additional resources, such as technology, to support learning.

Remote learning packages and/or online remote learning resources will be made available January 10th 2022. We recognize that this shift has an impact on everyone and thank you for your continued commitment as we navigate the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and families. We will continue to keep you informed as the situation evolves. Mindful that changes to daily routines and changes to the supports provided through schools can be difficult for some students, below is a list of mental health supports students may wish to explore:

- **BreathingRoom** is a newly launched e-mental health program for youth aged 13-24. It supports youth and young adults in learning new ways to manage stress, depression and anxiety, as well as strengthening their existing coping skills. NWT youth can access this program at <https://app.breathingroom.me/register?code=XXQTGPUE>
- NWT Help Line – available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is 100% free, confidential and anonymous. Call 1-800-661-0844.

- The [NWT Community Counselling Program](#) – is available free-of-charge to every NWT resident, in every region of the NWT. It helps people deal with a variety of issues including family violence, mental health issues and addictions.

Please continue to practice social distancing, and wear masks. Be safe everyone.

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