



COVID-19 POLICY 1.0: INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

BACKGROUND

Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) has been mandated by the Sioux Lookout area Chiefs in Assembly to implement a First Nation governed and culturally appropriate public health system for the First Nations it serves. Preventing Infectious Diseases (also known as communicable disease control) is one element of this system. On May 19, 2020 First Nations and Inuit Health Branch officially transferred responsibility for the public health management of COVID-19 to SLFNHA.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide operational guidance and clarify roles of various health team members for the public health management of COVID-19 in First Nations communities served by SLFNHA.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all team members participating in the public health management of COVID-19 including:

- SLFNHA Preventing Infectious Diseases Nurse Specialists
- Other SLFNHA employees within Preventing Infectious Diseases
- Community Health Nurses/Public Health Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses (employed by either First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Tribal Councils, or a Band)
- Community Physicians; and
- SLFNHA Public Health Physician.

DEFINITIONS

Active Case: Individual confirmed to have COVID-19 by laboratory result and still within their period of communicability.

Approaches to Community Wellbeing (ACW): public health program at SLFNHA.

Close Contact: Individual with a high-risk exposure to a confirmed or probable case.

Community Health Nurse (CHN): registered nurses working at community level who may be employed by First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB), Tribal Councils, Bands, or other private Health Agencies.

Community Health Worker (CHW): band employed health workers that support the implementation of health programming in the First Nation (e.g. Community Health



Representative, Health Babies Healthy Children worker, Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative worker, etc.).

Confirmed Case: defined as per Ministry of Health COVID-19 Case Definition (found at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_case_definition.pdf).

Incubation Period: the period of time from exposure to the virus to onset of symptoms. Defined as Ministry of Health COVID-19 Case Management Guidelines as 2 to 14 days after exposure.

Individual: patient and/or client and/or community member with COVID-19 infection.

Isolation: applies to Individuals with symptoms with probable or confirmed COVID-19.

Period of Communicability: period of time for which a case of COVID-19 is considered to be infectious. Defined as per Ministry of Health COVID-19 Case Management Guidelines as from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or positive test) to 14 days after symptom onset (or positive test).

Physical Distancing: maintaining a separation of at least 2 metres between people.

Probable Case: defined as per Ministry of Health COVID-19 Case Definition (found at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_case_definition.pdf).

Public Health Nurse (PHN): registered nurses working at community level in designated positions for public health who may be employed by FNIHB, Tribal Councils, Bands, or other private Health Agencies.

Quarantine/Self-isolation: applies to Individuals without symptoms who have been exposed to COVID-19.

Resolved Case: defined by the Ministry of Health as confirmed cases, that have not died, and:

- Are not hospitalized and are 14 days past their episode date (symptom onset date or specimen collection date)
- Currently hospitalized and are 14 days past their episode date (symptom onset date or specimen collection date)
- Admitted or in process of being discharged from hospital and have had 2 consecutive negative tests at least 24 hours apart

APPROVALS



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