



# Cowichan Tribes

5760 Allenby Road  
Quw'utsun Territory  
Duncan, BC V9L 5J1  
250-748-3196 | cowichantribes.com

**To:** Cowichan Tribes Members, Residents and Neighbours

**March 3, 2021**

**From:** Cowichan Tribes Chief and Council

**Subject:** COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order Extended until March 19, 2021

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## COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order Extended

Dear Cowichan Tribes Community,

Last weekend's vaccination clinics were a tremendous success with approximately **1,259** vaccines administered to members of our community (ages 16 and up). This is a major milestone in our community as we can finally see the "light" at the end of the tunnel.

I want to thank our dedicated staff and health professionals, Island Health Authority, volunteers and so many others for organizing such an efficient and caring clinic. We look forward to announcing our next vaccinations clinics once more shipment are received.

While vaccines provide an important tool in our fight against COVID-19, we must continue to stay the course. To ensure the safety of our community and staff, Council has made the difficult decision to extend the Cowichan Tribes Shelter in Place order for an additional two weeks. The order will remain in effect **until 5 pm on March 19, 2021**.

While the continuation of our order can feel frustrating, we see the end in sight. With the first dose clinics completed, we anticipate this to be our last Shelter in Place order extension, but only if we all continue to do our part and case numbers are low. We again thank you all for your continued dedication to stopping the spreads in the community and we look forward to the freedom of once again eating in restaurants, local non-essential shopping or self-care beauty appointments. However, while we may lift our Shelter In Place Order, the Provincial Health Order will still restrict gatherings, out of town travel and visiting other households.

As reported in our latest Community [Update](#) (March 1<sup>st</sup>), we continue to see a spread in COVID-19 in our community with an increase in the total number of cases, hospitalizations and households affected. It is with tremendous sadness that we report a fifth member of Cowichan Tribes has succumbed to COVID-19. Our thoughts and prayers go out to this member's family and friends during this difficult time.

### Reminders:

- Please continue to follow all public health safety protocols and get immediately tested if you develop any symptoms (call 1-844-901-8442 or 8-1-1).
- After the Shelter in Place order has been lifted or modified, keep in mind that we must continue to follow provincial health orders, which apply in our community.

- Anyone who has received their first dose of vaccine must continue to follow the Shelter in Place order and public health safety protocols. This means no visits to other households, keep your distance (2 m/6 ft apart), wear a mask in public, and only leave the house for essential reasons (e.g. work, medical appointment, groceries).
- It will take some time before you receive the vaccine's full protection (after the second dose), which will reduce the severity of the disease. It will also take several months before most of our community and valley are protected by vaccines. Also, young children are not being vaccinated and may still get sick or spread the virus. #keepCovidOut
- Taxis, home repairs, medical visits and other essential service providers are still allowed to visit homes on reserve.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your strength, kindness, compassion and patience as we work through these difficult challenges together.

I also want to take this time to welcome Marnie Elliott as the new acting Health Director, and thank Derek Thompson for his service in this role, who has since left Cowichan Tribes to pursue other professional opportunities.

For the latest information including upcoming COVID-19 vaccine clinics, please visit our website coronavirus page <https://cowichantribes.com/coronavirus-updates>

### **We Are Here To Support**

**If you have any questions or need support during this time, please contact the COVID-19 Community Navigators (250) 715-3339 or Ts'ewulhtun Health Centre: 250-746-6184.** If you are struggling and need to talk to someone, you can also call the Vancouver Island Crisis Line 1-888-494-3888 (24-hour line) or text 250-800-3806 (from your mobile 6 P.M.-10 P.M.).

***Mukw' tst 'o' shilhukw, 'u tu COVID-19 lhxeen***

*(We're all in this together)*