Interior Health declares COVID-19 outbreak over at Canim Lake

CANIM LAKE – Interior Health has declared the COVID-19 outbreak in the community of Canim Lake over.

"We would like to thank the Canim Lake First Nation and Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) for their decisive action and efforts towards ending this COVID-19 outbreak," said Susan Brown, president and CEO, Interior Health. "This has been a challenging time for Canim Lake and the nearby community of 100 Mile House. We applaud everyone who worked together during this difficult time, and we send condolences to the families and loved ones of the two people who passed away."

In total, 66 cases of COVID-19 and two deaths were linked to the outbreak.

"Tsq'escen is proud of the efforts made by community members to deal with the outbreak, and now finally the outbreak conclusion, with invaluable help from IH; even though grieving the loss of two elders, one within community and the other an urban member," said Chief Helen Henderson.

Outbreak response activities were coordinated and supported by the Canim Lake First Nation and EOC, Interior Health, the First Nations Health Authority, Emergency Management BC, and others.

"We would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts taken by the Canim Lake First Nation to ensure public health and safety in their collaborative work with neighbouring communities," said IH Medical Health Officer Dr. Silvina Mema. "These outstanding efforts significantly mitigated the risk factors associated with the rapid transmission of the virus."

Although this outbreak is declared over, COVID-19 continues to circulate throughout the Interior. It is essential that everyone continue to avoid social gatherings and limit socialization to their immediate household bubble, and follow public health guidelines to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

Provincial restrictions regarding social interactions remain in place.

All communities across B.C. must remain vigilant in following COVID-19 precautions:
- Keep to your household bubbles and avoid social gatherings.
- Stay home when you are sick and get tested if you have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Practise physical distancing and use a mask if you cannot.
- Wash your hands often.

The best way to protect yourself, your family, your business, and your community is to follow these public health measures. Please remain kind and do not stigmatize or judge others who seek testing, or test positive, for COVID-19.

Booking a COVID-19 test:
Online: You can book an appointment online through the COVID-19 Test Booking Form:
https://interiorhealthcovid.secureform.ca/index.php

By phone: Call the COVID-19 Test Booking Line at 1-877-740-7747 for assistance with booking your test.

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