

SPECIAL EDITION of the Council Corner

This edition is a communication from the Interagency Pandemic Oversight Committee

Following the initial announcement by the Province of Saskatchewan declaring COVID-19 a Pandemic, the Town of Nipawin proactively established an Interagency group to ensure active and ongoing communication among various sectors, organizations and businesses in the Town of Nipawin. The 22-person Interagency includes representation from the Town of Nipawin, Fire Department, Chamber of Commerce, RCMP, independent business, Health Authority, Social Services, EMS, Media, Housing, Education, Ministerial and others. The group has met monthly to ensure that in the event of an outbreak in or around the Town of Nipawin the opportunity to communicate and assist would be in place.

As September, turned into October, and all of us spend more time indoors, COVID-19 continues to be a concern. This week, the Saskatchewan Health Authority has alerted everyone of an increase in COVID-19 cases in some Northeast Communities. Therefore, it is increasingly important for citizens from across the area to follow public health measures and safety precautions to prevent the spread of this virus.

The following are *three very important* things to help keep you, and others as safe as possible:

1. Keep your **DISTANCE** – 6 feet/2 meters between yourself and others
2. Wear a **MASK**, to protect others and yourself if you can't keep the 6 feet/2-meter distance
3. **WASH** your hands often!

Visitation at Nipawin Hospital and Pineview Lodge limited:

As a result of an increased number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the Northeast, **visitation at Nipawin Hospital and Pineview Lodge Long-Term Care facility are limited**. This means family members or support people will only be permitted for compassionate reasons. No other visitors are allowed into the facilities at this time and these enhanced limitations will remain in place until further notice. The Saskatchewan Health Authority is asking the public for their support and cooperation in order to contain the spread of the virus.

Compassionate care visitation: Compassionate care reasons may include, but are not limited to, family or support persons during end-of-life care, major surgery, intensive care/critical care or a care partner aiding in clinical care (at the discretion of the patient's care provider). Detailed information about Compassionate Care can be found at saskatchewan.ca/covid19.

Family members and support people who are permitted under these exceptions must be verified and undergo a health screening prior to entering the facility or home. This includes a temperature check and questionnaire. The visitor will be required to perform hand hygiene (hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer) when entering and leaving the facility or home and when entering and leaving the patient's or resident's room. Visitors will be required to wear a medical grade mask while inside the facility or home and potentially additional personal protective equipment if required. Visitors are not permitted to wait in waiting rooms or other common areas.

At the same time that everyone is encouraged to wear masks, I remind you that the issue of disposing of those masks has become a concern. Please be sure to dispose of your used mask in a safe manner...take it home and dispose of it in your home garbage or place it into trash containers provided throughout the town. Please **DO NOT** toss your mask onto the street!

Please continue to support local businesses in our community ... **THINK SHOP BUY LOCAL!**

As always, I welcome conversations with residents of Nipawin. If you have an *idea, concern or a bouquet* please don't hesitate to arrange an opportunity for a conversation. Call (306) 862 9866 to arrange an appointment or by email to mayorharper@nipawin.com. (**NOTE:** Anonymous concerns, written or by phone, will not receive response so please sign your concern and provide contact information.)