

September 18th, 2009



Tripartite First Nations Health Plan

Dear First Nations Chiefs and Health Directors,

As you are all aware, cases of the H1N1 flu virus have occurred in people throughout BC and Canada, including in First Nations communities. The vast majority of these people have had mild to moderate illness and most of those affected have recovered successfully at home.

It's important to ensure your community is in a state of readiness - primarily through a pandemic plan - and is using preventative measures.

It's also important that your community uses all the available support. This support includes the BC Tripartite H1N1 Action Group, which is made up of representatives from the First Nations Health Council, Health Canada, the regional health authorities, and the provincial government.

We urge you to review the attached 1-pager, "Know Your Plan: H1N1 Community Leadership Checklist", for your region. Please fill out the contact information for your local community health services and hospital and distribute throughout the community. This checklist will help make you better prepared to deal with H1N1 - and it shows you how to access help.

The Community Checklist includes key contacts. Please get in touch with these contacts if you have questions - they are ready to help your community.

Be assured that we will keep in touch in the weeks and months ahead with more updates and information. By working together, we can minimize the effects of H1N1 in First Nations communities in BC.

Handwritten signature of Evan Adams in black ink.

Evan Adams, MD
Aboriginal Health Physician
Advisor
Ministry of Healthy Living
and Sport
1515 Blanshard St., 4th
Floor
Victoria, BC
V8W-3C8

Handwritten signature of Joe Gallagher in blue ink.

Joe Gallagher
Chief Executive Officer
First Nations Health Council
1205-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver BC
V7T 1A2

Handwritten signature of Shannon Waters in purple ink.

Shannon Waters, MD
Director of Health
Surveillance, First Nations
and Inuit Health
Health Canada –BC Region
757 West Hastings Street
6th floor
Vancouver, BC
V6C 3E6

