

Hi everyone,

Let me preface this message saying I hope everyone had a safe, happy Christmas/Holiday and New Year. I realize things have been far from traditional but it's still crucial that we take the time to live in the moment and to appreciate what we have. I'm confident that by this time next year, the vaccine will be widely available to the point where we can return to our classic holiday traditions. Until then, we need to stay the course.

Manitoba's provincial restrictions have extended until January 22, 2021. This means gatherings in both private and public dwellings continue to be limited and non-essential travel not recommended. This should come as no surprise as it appears much travelling was done across Canada over the holidays, leading to another burst of cases across the country.

Our provinces decision to isolate ourselves from all this hustle and bustle seems to be paying off as our rate of infection is not nearly as high as neighboring provinces. However, policy is only one piece of the puzzle. The rest of the responsibility relies on us to follow and adhere to the public health guidelines. You've heard me say it a million times now, and that's because it works. Remember to keep washing your hands, wear your mask and remain socially distanced in the presence of others.

As this pandemic has progressed along with the physical health challenges has come some significant mental health issues. The stress, the isolation and the frustration of not knowing the exact end date becomes overwhelming for some. If you are struggling or know someone who is, please reach out by phone call, text or email to friends, family or loved ones to share the burden and help lighten the load. Please continue to practice kindness and patience for all as we work our way through this.

Presently, our situation here in Flin Flon is sustainable. With that in mind, we still cannot afford to be reckless and risk putting additional strain on our healthcare system. Please, continue to follow public health guidelines, not just because it's the law, but because it's simply the right thing to do. I can't promise you when this will be over, but what I can promise is that when this is over our community will bounce back in full swing with events and activities for all!

Until then stay safe, stay strong and stay healthy Flin Flon.

-Cal Huntley