

Good afternoon everyone,

This week I want to address the rapid spread of new cases in the north, as well as the new unspecified variant that has made its way to our region. While you've heard me talking about COVID-19 for months now, I believe these new and more contagious variants warrant a public address. What's most concerning about these new variants, is that we don't have enough information to fully comprehend what makes them so much more contagious. However, we can certainly see the recent impact they've had across the country in hotspots such as Ontario and BC. Even cases within the prairies have spiked as Saskatchewan has now implemented further provincial restrictions. (Residents of Flin Flon Saskatchewan, Creighton, and Denare Beach are strongly encouraged to read these restrictions on the Saskatchewan provincial website).

While our region has been relatively successful at limiting the spread of cases so far, recent numbers suggest that further action is needed. The North has reported on the first cases of the variants as I write this. While there is no additional announcement of restrictions from the provincial government yet, I believe it is necessary for us to continue to limit contact with one another. In light of this, I am asking everyone to please only go out for essential services and avoid any sort of gatherings no matter the size. Even those gatherings outside should be wary of the risks associated with coming within 6 feet of one another. This is not an order from myself but it is a request as a concerned Mayor who values the health and safety of our community and region. We must keep our rate of infection as low as possible so as to not overwhelm our local and provincial medical services.

Exercise and fresh air are essential services in my eyes, but if your driving in your car, one thing to consider is sanitizing your hands both before and after using a gas pump. Other commonly shared objects you should consider sanitizing are shopping carts, door handles, and debit machines.

I know there is a small percentage of people who are reticent to get the vaccination even if available. No one is going to force it on you but please, with an open mind, do some research and weigh the risks. The Federal government has suggested that most Canadians, who wish to be vaccinated, should receive their vaccine by end of summer. I certainly hope this to be the case, so we can return to some sense of normalcy by fall.

With all that in mind, the best thing you can presently do is continue to be patient, stay home if you can and stay safe!

Mayor Cal Huntley