

Hi everyone,

As you may have already heard, there have been some additional changes that the Manitoba provincial government has made in regards to interprovincial travel. Beginning today, all those entering Manitoba will be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival in Manitoba. This would include Manitobans who are returning to the province from non-essential travel. I would like to clarify that there are some exceptions for essential services and border residents to this amendment. Residents of Creighton, Denare Beach and Flin Flon, Saskatchewan may continue to enter Flin Flon for work and other essential services and vice versa.

With that in mind, this is certainly not the time for residents of our communities to be venturing out further in the province, especially to major urban centres such as Saskatoon or Winnipeg. It is also not the time to be crossing the border for leisurely trips. In order for these restrictions to go away as soon as possible, we must continue to do our part in following them diligently.

We are also hearing that there may be some significant changes coming to national and international travel as well. Keep up to speed by monitoring the Federal and Provincial government COVID websites.

With regards to Northern specific restrictions, all the Northern Mayors and myself, are lobbying to find a more equitable and realistic solution for areas in the North where the stats indicate a similar situation to the Southern part of the province. I believe, certainly in Flin Flon and region, that limited shopping and ability to access non-essential items should happen sooner than later. I know this would make compliance to the travel restrictions a little easier for all our residents.

On a more positive note, it seems the next round of vaccines will be available shortly. As of Wednesday, we now have an idea on the sequence to access the vacs, bringing us one step closer to that light at the end of the tunnel. Remember, just because we have a vaccine on the way, doesn't mean we should be any less cautious with the fundamental requirements. This vaccine does not cure COVID. It simply helps protect those who have yet to be exposed to it. There are still countless vulnerable residents in our community who are at a higher risk of serious health complications and we as a community, family or friend owe it to them to continue to do our part in minimizing the danger of further transmission.

Please stay around home for now. Case numbers are dropping so let's keep it that way! In the meantime, be kind, stay safe, stay healthy and stay happy Flin Flon.

Cal Huntley.