

COVID-19 Facebook live update: November 3, 2021

>> Good morning to you all.

I am Renee with Cabinet Communications and the moderator for today's COVID-19 update.

We are joined by Premier Sandy Silver and Doctor Catherine Elliott, the acting Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Closed captioning is provided by National Closed Captioning and thank you to Mary Tiessen for providing our ASL interpretation today.

Following the remarks from our speakers, we will go to the media present in our room and the phone lines for a round of questions.

I will call you by name in you will each have two questions.

Before we begin with our speakers, I would like to verify that everyone can hear a squeak if any of the reporters are having problems, please e-mail ecoinfo@gov.yk.ca.

I will now hand it over to Premier Silver.

>> Thank you very much, and thank you for joining us on the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwächän Council.

I am pleased to be here again with Doctor Catherine Elliott back.

On October 15 as you know, our government announced new measures that will be implemented to ensure our territory remains healthy, safe and protected against the current risks that are associated with COVID-19.

One important measure is a new vaccine requirement for territorial government employees, including teachers and all front-line healthcare workers.

This requirement will also apply to employees of our partner organizations that the government funds to provide services to vulnerable populations.

Since the announcement on October 15, we have received new recommendations from the acting Chief Medical Officer of Health around timing between doses.

Doctor Elliott is now recommending a period of eight weeks between doses of that vaccine, and as a result, we are updating the implementation of the vaccination requirements for employees.

Employees will be required to have their first dose of vaccine no later than November 30, second dose based upon the new recommendations, no later than January 30.

This will ensure employees and front-line healthcare workers that have not yet been immunized have enough time to receive both doses before the new requirements come into force.

Again, we continue to follow the science and the advice of public health professionals.

This vaccine requirement for employment will allow us to ensure a safe working environment for our employees including our healthcare workers, while protecting the health and safety of the members of the public that we serve each and every day, especially the most vulnerable populations.

We understand many employees support these measures, to ensure that we have safe workplaces.

We have also heard some concerns, including those from the leaders of unions as well.

Minister Streicker and the Public Service Commission have been working with the Yukon Employees Union and also working with the Yukon Teachers Association to discuss the implementation of this new public health requirement.

We are following the recommendations of Doctor Elliott and her team as we work through the implementation of this requirement, and our focus remains protecting the health and safety of all Yukoners.

We continue to work with unions to ensure we can provide a workspace that is healthy and safe for employees and that allows us to continue to serve -- safely serve Yukoners.

The other new measures that will be implemented as requirement that proof of vaccination will be required to access various nonessential services and events, and to participate in certain recreational activities for those who are over 12 years old.

This requirement will be based on the BC model, with Yukon specific considerations as recommended by Doctor Elliott and her team.

Government officials are working with businesses, working with stakeholders as well to address concerns and to answer questions.

We are in the process of finalizing the list of settings that will require proof of vaccination, and we will share them as soon as possible.

A Yukon specific QR code reader and an app is being developed to support local businesses and organizations to verify vaccination status.

The app will securely verify an individual's proof of vaccination credential.

It will be able to read any QR code that follows the government of Canada's specifications for proof of vaccination credentials.

The app does not need an Internet connection to verify the QR codes, and will be made available for free in the coming weeks.

Yukoners can already request their proof of vaccination credentials online, and that is at Yukon.ca/vaccine-proof.

You can also access this service over the phone, via the COVID-19 in phone line.

That number is 1-877-374-0425.

This line is open seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

I know there has been a lot of questions since we announced the new measures last month.

There's a lot of additional logistical details to work out in the coming weeks, and we understand there will be challenges ahead.

These new requirements are based upon the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to protect Yukoners.

These measures also align with steps being taken in other jurisdictions right across the country to increase vaccination rates, and to combat the Delta variant.

We have also seen businesses and other organizations introduce similar policies in recent weeks, and that is very good to see.

We need to work together to do everything we can to stop the spread of COVID-19 in keep Yukoners safe.

I also want to be very clear that the choice still belongs to individuals whether or not they want to receive a vaccination.

We need to keep in mind, however, that our choices do have consequences, and that our individual actions have an impact on the health of our entire territory.

We strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated, as we have ever since the vaccinations had become available.

Vaccination remains the best protection against COVID-19 and the spread of the disease.

It also reduces the chances of severe symptoms, including death, if you do get infected.

We all have a role to play in keeping our territory safe and healthy, and we need to be kind and helpful to each other, because we are in this together.

I encourage all Yukoners to continue to practice the Safe 6, and continued to wear a mask, the plus one, if you're inside.

These measures absolutely helped prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It is especially important to stay home if you're sick and to get tested.

Our government introduced Paid Sick Leave Rebate Program at the outset of the pandemic, and it is still available to employers and self-employed individuals as well.

You can find the details about that program on Yukon.ca.

We all need to take action to increase vaccination rates, to keep Yukoners healthy and safe.

The vaccine clinic here in Whitehorse's open five days a week.

Vaccines are also available in all Yukon communities, at your local health centre.

You can find information about the vaccines and how to get your shot by going online to [Yukon.ca/this-is-our-shot](https://www.yukon.ca/this-is-our-shot).

Again, the vaccines are safe and effective, and they save lives.

Increasing our vaccination rate will also lead us out of the pandemic and move us toward that path of recovery and toward a new sense of normal.

Thank you everybody.

Dr Elliott?

>> Thank you, Premier Silver.

Good morning everyone.

I would like to begin by acknowledging that I am on the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Taa'an Kwächän Council.

I will start with an update on COVID-19 activity in the Yukon.

As of 9:00 a.m. this morning, we have 77 active cases in Yukon.

There have been a total of 973 cases and 889 people have recovered from COVID-19 in the Yukon.

We have had ten Yukoners die from COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.

Our current seven day running average of new cases, daily new cases, is 10.1.

The seven day average of active cases is 72.

Percent positivity at this point is 7.1 percent, meaning 7.1 percent of all tests conducted in Yukon are positive.

There are currently two people in hospital in Yukon with COVID-19.

We're seeing an increase in case activity.

From October 1 through the 29, we had 182 new cases in Yukon.

This represents an approximately 125 percent increase from the number of cases in September.

Approximately 85 percent of these cases were individuals under 50 years of age.

We're seeing cases amongst people who are fully vaccinated.

49.5 percent of our cases during that period were unvaccinated.

4.4 percent were partially vaccinated in 45.6 percent of these cases were fully vaccinated.

This means that we have had approximately half of our cases in the 74 percent of the population that is fully vaccinated, and half of our cases from only 16 percent of the population that is not fully vaccinated.

This is why and how we know that vaccine continues to protect us from infection, severe illness, and death.

Since October 1, we have had four hospitalizations including one medevac to the southern hospital.

This person who was medevaced was not fully vaccinated.

I want to first congratulate the 146 people who have taken their first dose of vaccine in the last week of October.

Thank you from myself, and for all of us working to prevent the spread of COVID and to keep people safe and healthy.

I also want to reiterate that vaccine is our way through this pandemic.

Evidence is clear that fully vaccinated individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 are significantly protected severe outcomes.

I am going to give you some national numbers for those people who love numbers as much as I do.

As an example, evidence was submitted to the public health agency of Canada from December 14th, 2020, to October 9th, 2021.

From all provinces and territories in Canada, what was found was that 815,473 people or about 850,000 people in Canada were diagnosed with COVID-19 during that time.

Out of those people, 48,502 people were fully vaccinated.

Of those vaccinated, 2035 were hospitalized in 608 of those people died.

Vaccine works, it is not 100 percent foolproof.

That is what we can tell with that.

So let's go back to those people who were unvaccinated.

Of those 815,473 people...

Of those unvaccinated, we saw 36,579 people hospitalized.

We saw 7,264 of those people die.

If you're eligible for vaccine, please get vaccinated.

In Yukon, 85 percent of residents over the age of 12 are fully vaccinated.

This is a very high vaccination rate and a wonderful accomplishment for our immunizers and programs, our IT teams, labs and everybody who supports this program.

It is also comparable now to many places across the country.

We continue to lead the country in terms of our rate of vaccinations early in the pandemic in we are still within the top group in this regard, but I know that we can do better.

Cases are occurring in fully vaccinated people, and these people can transmit to others.

The more people who are vaccinated, the fewer people will get COVID, and the fewer people will get sick.

Every preventative measure we can take, we should take.

Remember that vaccine appointments are available on Yukon.ca, in Whitehorse and in all the communities.

Last week, we announced that boosters are being rolled out across the country-- sorry, across the territory, this week for 50 years and older.

We expect to be able to offer boosters to everyone who needs one in the coming months.

We have started conversations with communities and groups around the booster shot.

I was so pleased to see that in the first week of appointments, that they looked up very quickly.

More appointments will be added regularly.

Every person over 50 who would like a booster will receive one, and I want to recognize everyone who is working on operationalizing these clinics and all of their incredible work.

Let's talk a bit about children.

I know a lot of people are concerned about children and their families, their communities, and their own children.

In the month of October, I issued ten school exposure notifications, and we also called the end of an outbreak in Carcross community school.

As I said earlier in October, we can expect to see more outbreaks in schools as we move further into fall in into the winter months.

Elementary school children are not eligible at this time to be vaccinated, and as any parent can tell you, one case of cold can impact the entire class.

We're also seeing a lot of other respiratory illnesses in children, and I think all the parents and children have been tested to determine whether their stuff a lower their favour or their chills as COVID or something else.

Fortunately children are also less likely to become really sick, and even with the Delta variant.

This is in part why we have a low severity of cases at this time.

Meaning that for the number of cases we have, very few actually have been hospitalized or passed away.

Even with the Delta variant, we're seeing that children are less likely to be very sick.

We continue to work with the Department of Education.

They are able to ensure the proper steps are taken to protect students, teachers and other staff members.

One thing that we have not seen is a lot of transmission from one class to another class, and this speaks to the efforts of all the members of the school community who are working hard to ensure that the measures in schools are followed.

Children are continuing to do a lot of things that keep them safe and healthy, not just go to school but engage in the arts, music, sports and other activities, and this is a wonderful thing that we can do with this time.

While we are continuing to see an increase in school exposure notices, we know that having kids in school is better for their mental health and well-being as well as for their learning.

On Friday, the US food and drug administration authorized the emergency use of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 to include children 5 to 11 years old.

Many people are asking when we might see the vaccine here in Canada.

Right now, it is going through the regulatory process with Health Canada, and this does take time.

The reason is because we are very careful with vaccines.

They require a fair bit of testing, a lot of studies to look at whether there are potential side effects, to look at whether they are effective.

We offer vaccines when they are effective and safe.

Once the vaccine has gone through the regulatory process will Health Canada and we have the guidance of NACI, we will be ready to deliver those childhood vaccines.

I do want to say that children are eligible for influenza vaccine and I encourage parents to have their children vaccinated, and for children to be brave enough to get vaccinated.

I know many children are afraid of needles, some are close to my heart, and I have seen a lot of bravery amongst her children in their vaccinations.

The vaccine mandate.

Lastly, I will speak to this.

As the premier discussed, the vaccine mandate here in Yukon will be adjusted to reflect the national advisory committee on immunization test updated recommendations around the interval between dose one and dose two.

People might find it strange that at first, the recommended interval was about four weeks and now we are moving to eight weeks, and they might wonder why.

Those who are actively reading the information about this will recall that in the early days when many of the provinces did not have enough vaccine to offer two doses to their entire populations, they offered one dose first to everybody before moving into the second dose.

One of the things we have learned from this and other similar programs is that people who have been vaccinated with that longer interval develop, over the longer term, a stronger and more durable protection.

That is why NACI's move to say the recommended interval is eight weeks.

They offer a number of different options for intervals, and certainly four weeks is still within the options available.

However, it doesn't offer that same long-lasting protection.

Here in Yukon, our program had a shorter interval which meant that we had our population protected with two doses as many people who were willing to come and get vaccinated very quickly, and that served us well.

At this time, as we offer vaccines to those people who haven't yet become vaccinated, we want to offer it with that eight week interval, to ensure that people get that longer-lasting duration of protection.

Of course, this also offers people to become educated, to hit -- the questions and conversations to help them understand the importance of the vaccine.

I also want to let you know that a part of this vaccine mandate is because we don't want to reach a situation of healthcare system overwhelm.

Every day, our healthcare system staff and those people who support them are working hard in being tested.

The teams are tired.

I know we are all tired of this pandemic, but we have to continue to do everything we can to protect our healthcare system from being strained.

A have seen this happen in other jurisdictions in Canada and we can't afford to have it happen here in Yukon.

That is why we need everybody to come out and get their shot.

Let's also remember that getting your flu shot, wearing a mask, washing your hands, staying home and away from others when you're sick, and getting tested when you have symptoms are all important.

Please keep with your close bubble in social gatherings, keep them small.

Getting vaccinated is important, and we have enough vaccine for everyone and every person who gets vaccinated helps.

I know we are tired, and I know also many people among us love the winter months, love The Fall, the golden crisp air.

Love picking cranberries or watching the frost in the early morning.

Some love skiing, others hunting.

The northern lights are out, and others like to stay cozy inside by the firelight with warm food and familiar faces.

These are all things we can continue to enjoy at this time.

We are all preparing for winter and I urge you to take care of yourself and make the vaccine part of your preparations.

Please stay connected with each other.

This is how we stay healthy and continue to support one another, even the people who have opinions different from our own.

Be kind and considerate.

Thank you.

[Speaking Indigenous Language]

[Speaking French]

And now we can take questions.

>> Thank you, Premier Silver and Dr. Elliott.

We will now move on to the question and answer session with media.

Please identify which speaker you would like to answer your question before you start, and please also remember to mute and unmute yourselves.

We will first go to the reporter in the room and start with Jackie from CBC.

>> Reporter: Good morning.

My first question I think is for the Premier.

It's just in regards to the vaccine mandate, and you mentioned...

I am wondering if concerns from the unions and the 2000 more Yukoners that signed that petition earlier this week influenced the decision to push the timeline for the vaccine mandate?

Obviously you're following medical advice...

Was that also a factor?

>> Again, for the last 20 months, our movements are based upon the recommendations from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

That isn't changing now.

Dr Elliott has provided us with new recommendations around the vaccine delivery and we are following those recommendations, which are clearly coming from NACI, and their most recent publications.

You also mentioned unions.

Minister Streicker, he had a commitment made to the unions that was to consult with the acting Chief Medical Officer of Health on the proposed and any proposed alternatives, as far as we do

understand there are going to be some people that have medical conditions that would not -- would be eligible for vaccination but cannot do so for medical reasons.

We have to consider that.

We are obviously taking that into consideration as we implement the requirement but no, we will continue to make the policies that are based upon the recommendations, and this will be a requirement for government employees.

>> Thank you.

Another question?

>> Reporter: I do.

I am wondering if at this point you're able to offer any clarity about what happens to people who don't have a guest -- I guess the first shot by November 30th and are not fully vaccinated by January 30th, whether by choice or by federal exemption?

>> We're still looking at that.

My cabinet's meeting to discuss several policy details this weekend we will be sharing information as it becomes available.

>> Pat: Thank you.

We will now move to John on the phone lines with CKRW.

>> Reporter: Hi my first question is for the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health.

We have seen the good that mask mandate's can do to help prevent the spread, alongside the vaccine mandate.

And as previously noted by other journalists, there are a lot of people in the territory that don't want to get the vaccine, even if they have the information about the vaccine.

They are just staunchly against it.

So will mask mandate sword this move toward a mask in guideline where people are required to wear their masks indoors be coming back as a way to try to find some kind of middle ground?

>> Thanks for the question.

Masks are an important part of our production against COVID-19 for people who are vaccinated and for people who are not vaccinated.

Wearing a mask in indoor public spaces has been shown to reduce transmission by as much as 60 to 80 percent.

As I have said, people who are unvaccinated and people who are vaccinated or getting COVID-19 at this time.

Those who are unvaccinated are much more likely to get infected, and even more likely to be hospitalized are to die.

Mask mandate's R1 tool that can be used to promote the wearing of masks.

I have been very clear in my recommendations but masks should be worn in all indoor public spaces, and I have seen many, many people take on that recommendation.

I see few people who are not wearing masks at this time.

We need to watch the science, the epidemiology, and see if this is sufficient to help bend the curve with mask wearing.

Mask wearing is not something that is just for people who are unvaccinated or vaccinated, and it is not the only layer of protection.

We need the full spectrum of the layers of protection that we have, the Safe Six plus one, one being the mask.

And the other measures such as measures we are using in schools, workplaces, businesses, et cetera.

All of these together protect us.

There is not one full proof bullet that works for everything and every situation.

Masks are part of the picture.

Thanks.

>> Pat: Thank you.

Follow-up?

>> Reporter: I do.

I'm not sure if this was asked already, this question is directed towards the Premier.

What is going to happen to workers who decide they are not going to get the vaccine, and then the mandate comes into effect.

Are they going to be put on unpaid leave or terminated out right?

What is the plan?

>> So the question was asked already and again, we are looking into the deadlines for proof.

We are working with the unions right now.

More will be communicated in the coming days and weeks, but we also talked about the deadlines that are there for first in second doses.

>> Thank you.

We will now move to Haley at Yukon News.

>> Reporter: Thank you.

I had a follow-up question for the Premier again on the question of what happens to people if they do refuse a vaccine.

I mean, if details are released the next week, that gives people about two weeks to figure out their livelihood if leave without pay is on the table.

Could you explain the rationale a little for what is taking so long to make those decisions, about what happens to those folks who just are not going to get the vaccine quit?

>> So again, what people need to know is there is a requirement for vaccines.

They also need to know that in order to get vaccinated in the time necessary with the new recommendations that the deadlines are looming.

And that has been made public now, two weeks ago and again this week.

Whether or not the second vaccine is four weeks or eight weeks, it doesn't change when you should be getting your first dose.

So that requirement is within the end of this month.

We have also spoken about how we are going to follow the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

We don't see a situation other than a medical situation where an alternative to vaccination is going to happen.

And we also know that that would affect a very, very small portion of our population.

So as we work out the details in the Public Service Commission, they unions have been speaking also with the Chief Medical Officer of help.

Our recommendations are still going to be based upon science, our recommendations are still going to be followed by this government.

The logistics about how, and the results that -- if folks choose not to, we will be announcing more details as they get worked out.

But lots of conversations have been had since the first announcement, and we will update Yukoners as soon as we possibly can with any of the details.

But again, the rating is there.

The recommendations are solid, the rationale is solid.

We are moving in this direction and unless you have one of those identified-- I guess the one identified medical condition, then that is a consideration.

But otherwise, you have until the end of the month for your first vaccination, and then again, the deadline for the second vaccination with the eight-week notification with the recommendations.

>> Thank you.

Second question?

>> Reporter: I do, thanks.

I guess, you know, my second question would be in that case, what details still need to be worked out?

That makes it sound as though unless you have a medical exemption, that there will not be any work around.

That involve continuing to be paid by the government.

Is that the case -- will there be any work around or will you be required to get the vaccine to get paid?

>> I can't foresee us going into any different direction.

We can't predict the future, lots could happen from now until the end of the year.

But again, we have made it very clear, a lot of our recommendations have been based on the BC model.

Folks have seen the situation play out their weeks ahead of us as well.

There is a few Yukon specific considerations that we cannot just copy in paste, for lots of logistical reasons but also epidemiological reasons as well.

But also knowing Yukon specific considerations, those are the fine details but have to get worked out.

But the majority of the situation has already been identified.

And again, you know, the requirement will be to be vaccinated.

>> Dr. Elliott?

>> Thank you, Premier Silver, and Premier Silver speaks to the science.

I would just like to lay out a bit of the science that we have right now.

Many people may have believed, because we had such little COVID activity in the first bit of the pandemic for many months and because we survived that way with a number of measures in place, that they can continue to have those measures in their personal lives and protect themselves from COVID.

This is not the case.

If you're unvaccinated and going about regular activities including working, you will get COVID eventually.

This disease is not going away in you will not be able to keep it at bay with this measure and that measure.

That's a part of the science that we are looking at at this point.

Listen, even vaccinated people are getting COVID.

They are not getting severely ill but those people who are unvaccinated are at increased risk of being hospitalized and dying.

We have to Delta variant right now.

I am sure there are other variants around the corner, so this is going to be going on for a long time.

Backing down from vaccination now is not going to solve the issue of the risk of getting COVID, and I think we really need to accept that as a part of our new reality and living with COVID.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

We will now move to Tim with the Whitehorse Star.

>> Reporter: Can you hear me?

>> We can, thank you.

>> Reporter: My first question is more of a clarification, probably more for the premier.

So with the deadline off to January 30th for public servants to get their second vaccination, is that deadline accepted for nonessential things and proving your vaccinated, say to go into a bar or something.

Is that pushed back to January 30th as well or set so firm for November?

>> Again, our new recommendations coming in are based on the eight-week interval between-- that affects everybody.

So our announcement today is extending that time between the two will affect all of our policies, but again, it doesn't affect that first vaccination.

That's the selling point right now, even if there is going to be a gap between the first in second, you still need to get the first one in a timely fashion.

>> Follow-up question?

>> Reporter: I do.

This would be for Dr. Elliott in regard to moving from the four to the eight weeks now.

The four-week period for vaccines was the science up to that point.

Does it look with hindsight that it may be wasn't the best idea for the territory?

>> I think that four week interval which many people in Yukon had was the right choice at that time.

And the reason is, we were just starting our vaccine campaign.

Unlike the rest of Canada, we were prioritized for vaccine and because of this, we were able to offer two doses to people very rapidly.

We rapidly increased our vaccination rate in when we were hit with COVID periodically during those times, and most notably in June, our vaccination rates were very high.

And we definitely suffered during this period but we would've suffered much more had we not had those two doses available in as much of our population as we had.

At this time with the new knowledge and science, and with

85 percent of our eligible population vaccinated, this is the time now to take that eight-week interval as well.

We are also offering booster shots for people who are 50 in over, which will assist those people who have a bit of declining immunity, and particularly those who are at risk of severe illness, much older people, from having those outcomes from COVID.

This is COVID-19, it is the new reality.

We said we would have a vaccine hopefully within 18 months, and we had it within 12 months.

May said we would have, maybe the vaccine would be produced at a certain rate.

It was produced faster.

This has been an unprecedented time of scientific achievement and a public health response, and I think its something that is remarkable to see.

In yes, the science changes, the decisions will change.

COVID-19 changes, and we all struggle to keep up and keep a long and realize how fortunate we are to have such a rapidly moving scientific field to support our public health measures.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

Lauriane, L'Aurore Boréale.

[Speaking French]

>> Interpreter: So would it be possible to repeat in French what the consequences will be for government of Yukon employees that will not be vaccinated in time?

>> If you say it in English, I can say it in French.

>> So proof of vaccination, will that change?

It's an area we are working on.

Cabinet is meeting to discuss several different policy details this week, and we will share more information as that becomes available.

I think the big question about whether there is an alternative to vaccinations basically, and whether testing is going to be the alternative at this time, the recommendation from the Chief Medical Officer of health is no.

I think that's the salient point for today.

>> Okay,.

[Speaking French]

[Speaking French]

>> Thank you.

Maryne, another question?

[Speaking French]

>> Interpreter:

[Speaking French]

>> Interpreter: So could you tell us which other organizations that are not the government will have to apply the same requirements in terms of vaccination?

>> So again, as we look at the BC model, there are some Yukon considerations that might not apply in BC.

So the details of who is and isn't on those lists will be made available very soon.

>> Thank you, we will now move to Vincent at Radio-Canada.

[Speaking French]

>> Interpreter: So Doctor Elliott, could you please repeat what differences it makes for those who have been vaccinated with the second dose four after the first, and those that are being vaccinated eight weeks later, what kind of difference does it make?

And should people be more concerned with a booster dose if they have been vaccinated four weeks instead of eight?

[Speaking French]

[Speaking French]

>> Thank you.

Do you have another question?

[Speaking French]

>> Interpreter: So the question is for the Premier.

With the border with Alaska reopening and people wanting to travel from one to another and saying having a test that might

might be a break into going there, or refrain from going to Alaska and vice versa.

Are there still discussions about this and how it could be facilitated, maybe cost less for Yukoners?

>> Excellent question, and something that has been brought up with the Council of the Federation and the first ministers meeting conversations as well.

We will actively work with the federal government on bringing that information forward.

I completely agree, as we are getting back to normal, as people that receive those vaccinations now can travel, and the conversations I have had with Governor Leavy, and the mayors in the hamlets, we really do want to get back to some semblance of normal when it comes to the economy.

But also when it comes to seeing our friends in Alaska.

So the cost of these tests is going to absolutely be a deterrent to a lot of people, so we are going to continue these conversations with the federal government, to whom the requirements and policies we are talking.

>> Thank you.

Camille, Canadian press.

[Inaudible]

>> Hello, Camille?

All right.

We will come back to you at the end.

One more reporter on my list, Laurie at L'Aurore Boréale.

>> Reporter: No questions, thank you.

>> We will try one more time.

Camille, Canadian press?

[Inaudible]

>> Alright.

Thank you, everyone.

That concludes our COVID-19 update for today.

Our next COVID-19 update will be next week.

Thank you again to Premier Silver and Dr. Elliott.

Thank you to the media and everyone who tuned in to watch live over Facebook as well as thank you to Andre for our French translation.

I forgot you in my intro.

Thank you, have a wonderful Wednesday, everyone.