

COVID-19 Facebook live update: June 16, 2021

>> Pat: I am Pat Living with the Department of Health and Social Services and your moderator for the COVID-19 update.

We are joined by Yukon premier the Honourable Sandy silver, Council of Yukon First Nations Chief Peter Johnston and YUKON she Medical Officer of Health Doctor Brendan Hanley.

We also have Mary Tiessen and Andre.

Following our speakers we will go to the phone lines for questions from reporters and will call you by name.

Premier silver?

>> Thanks for joining us today on the judicial territory of the Kwanlin Dün and the Taa'an Kwächän Council.

And happy to rejoin with Council of Yukon First Nations Chief Peter Johnston and also Doctor Hanley.

Andrea and Mary as well.

We are here to talk about the COVID-19 outbreak that is happening in our territory and we are very sad to announce a Yukoner died this week as a result of COVID-19.

This is devastating news to the territory.

On behalf of the government and all Yukoners I send my sincere condolences to the family and friends.

This death is connected to an outbreak and Whitehorse.

Several new cases having connected to this outbreak and contact tracing is still underway.

The outbreak involves the graduating class at Porter Creek Senior secondary School catch wall-to-wall classes at a larger Smith Elementary School and several social groups that have been partying together.

The close contacts of all these individuals are connected to the outbreak.

We are talking about dozens and dozens of people that may have been exposed.

As I said contact tracing is underway and more cases have been identified overnight.

Certain guidance has been provided by Yukon communicable disease control to all student groups and parents fully vaccinated contacts of any of the outbreak groups who have not had prolonged household contact should self monitor for symptoms.

Household contacts including those that have been vaccinated must self isolate.

If you have symptoms arrange to get tested as soon as possible.

Anyone experiencing symptoms in Whitehorse should call the COVID-19 testing and assessment centre at 867 -- (867)393-3083.

Or book online to arrange for testing by following the links on YUKON.ca.

People in communities should contact their rural healthcare centres as well.

The primary risk right now is not the importation of COVID-19 from outside the territory.

The biggest risk is continued spread of COVID-19 connected to this outbreak.

We need to focus on containing the spread.

There are some clear factors involved in this outbreak that we need to understand.

Of the 36 cases diagnosed since June 4th only two have been fully vaccinated.

We do not know yet the status of the newest cases but that information will be forthcoming.

The unvaccinated individuals are at a much greater risk at this stage in the pandemic.

COVID-19 especially variants of concern spreads much more easily amongst those who are not vaccinated.

Without the protection of the vaccine you are at much greater risk of having more severe symptoms that could result in hospitalizations or even death.

The vaccines provide the best level of protection that is currently available to fight this disease.

In fact without our early aggressive vaccine rollout and without youth vaccine rollout this outbreak would be a lot worse than what we are seeing.

If you are not vaccinated you need to make an appointment.

We -- if we have enough action -- if you have any questions about the safety of the vaccine please reach out to your doctors or community nurses or talk to folks that you know have received the vaccine.

Getting immunized is the best thing you can do to protect your family and friends and colleagues and neighbours and Yukoners.

It's our path out of this pandemic.

And we know the outbreak is linked to situations or people are socializing in close proximity including bush parties and house parties and sometimes even breaking some of the rules and socializing in the bars which need to stop!

This outbreak has left no room for doubt, if we let our guard down this virus will absolutely take advantage and spread.

We have taken a careful and measured approach to lifting restrictions but we are relying on Yukoners to follow the public health recommendations in place.

I know in has been a long time dealing with this pandemic and we want to get over it.

I know we are all sick of it but we must stay vigilant right now.

You might be done with COVID but covid's not done with you.

We all have a role to play in keeping this territory safe.

Police practice safe sex and wash your hands often and maintain physical distancing and stay at home if you are sick.

Travel responsibly and respectfully.

And follow the gathering guidelines.

It is also still very important to wear your mask especially when you cannot maintain physical distancing and when you have folks who are not in your social bubble.

I'm fully vaccinated and wearing my mask.

The actions you take are not just to protect yourself, they are protect your family and friends and neighbours.

Keep in mind that masks are still mandatory in outdoor public spaces.

I can't overstate how porch and it is.

We will see Marchese is from this outbreak.

We have taught many times in those outbreaks about how quickly things can change and we have seen it in other jurisdictions and now we see it at home.

It is no longer a hypothetical situation.

This is serious.

Now is not the time to have big house parties are bush parties.

Don't go out drinking with people you don't know.]

Be careful and vigilant and do your part to keep your community healthy and safe.

We are increasing our enforcement efforts to ensure the rules are being followed.

A lot of organizations and folks have been doing a tremendous job but some are not.

When it comes to your safe six plus one you need to take it

seriously and we will be stepping up enforcement.

If you are aware of a situation that should not be happening or you have concerns you can make anonymous concerns by calling (867)393-6210.

Now more than ever we need to work together to support each other to get through this outbreak.

We need to recommit to practising the safe six plus one and we need to keep the health and safety of our fellow Yukoners in mind in this include stepping up and taking your shot if you haven't already following the direction of our amazing public health officials who have been working around the clock to keep us safe and they've been doing it for 16 months now.

We will get through this but we all need to do our parts and I know many, many Yukoners have been doing their part and that I'm preaching to the choir.

The people who pay attention to these press conferences are the ones that are doing all the things and I thank you for keeping up on these updates and by following the direction and I know when I was angry at 12 I would not have been paying attention and I would've been doing other things but I know the parents are listening and the community is listening as up to us to communicate.

You've all made a tremendous difference so far and we need to keep it going.

Please get this message out to those who are not listening.

>> Pat: Thank you.

Grand Chief Ed John's and?

[Speaking Indigenous Language]

>> I want to thank the premier for the chance to join him on the press conferences.

My condolences go out to the family that have lost a loved one due to COVID-19.

My heart goes out to those who have confirmed cases within your family is in the first nations governments are working diligently along with achieved medical officer to ensure measures are in place.

The fact we know there was confirmed cases at the native grad, I feel safe in the fact I have both my shots as I was also there.

I feel safe for my family as well.

The opportunity had to be taken in it was a pleasure to be there.

We want to make sure communities are safe and our elders are safe.

And taking and this achievement.

Please do your part.

If you are in contact please follow the orders and self isolate if you been exposed or are fully vaccinated police of monitor and if you are physically able and I encourage those 12 to 17 to get vaccinated, Pfizer is available.

And also those who were able to book their vaccination through the community health nurse.

I want to encourage people together shot and as the premier mansion we can get through this and it's in our part to do their part and I encourage you to do that.

>> Pat: Doctor Hanley?

[Speaking Indigenous Language]

>> It's an honour to be here with both the premier and the grand Chief.

YUKON's current situation continues to change by the hour as for cases associated with the exposure events are identified.

As we received results on 60 need cases and another probable case overnight we have 50 active cases and cleared into Botswana outside the territory and including one probable case.

This brings the total count to 136 plus one probable case with 51 confirmed cases since this outbreak began.

Out of those 51 cases three have been hospitalized and one individual has died bringing our total number of deaths associated with COVID infection to three and I want to add my sincere sympathies to the family of the individual who passed away.

This is a troubling and sad loss.

My colleague Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health Doctor Catherine Elliott declared an outbreak on Sunday afternoon and I'm grateful for the work that Dr Elliott and our public health people have done to define and manage this outbreak.

YCDC, the communicable disease team, the testing team's, community nursing in the rural health centres and the crew team here's well.

And thank you to the many people and families who have cooperated with us and who have shown up to get tested and two are doing the right thing when self isolating.

It takes the whole village to manage an outbreak.

With the rapid number of cases growing across multiple age groups it is imperative we remain alert and take a measured and cautious approach.

A couple weeks ago we had no active cases while we watched our neighbours to the south and the east struggle with increasing case counts.

You could say it's now our turn.

Just at the point we thought there was an end in sight and we were ready for further relaxations this hit us.

And he thought we were finished with COVID up here but we have certainly found out that COVID is not finished with us.

On the other hand despite the three individuals who have been affected with serious illness we know this outbreak although affecting many will eventually peak and end.

We know three quarters of our adult population and 90 percent of our elders are protected with vaccinations.

We will not see our hospitals filled up with COVID patients as a vast majority of young people even with variant COVID-19 disease will do okay but we do have a tough spot to get through.

We need all hands on deck to protect our young people and those who have not yet been vaccinated and we are suffering through this outbreak together but we will get through this together.

This outbreak and those with serious infection remind us we need to be mindful of our actions.

It is important to stick to those safe six measures and to wear a mask in the appropriate circumstances including indoor public spaces.

I will provide further detail on what we know currently and because we had fresh cases identified last evening getting exact number will always be a shifting problem until we get confirmation and get more of a story but as of first thing this morning this is our situation, our total number of active cases is 50 of whom 49 were confirmed and 49 are out of territory residents and one is a probable who is also a YUKON resident.

So our active cases are 50.

We have a total as I mentioned earlier of three that were hospitalized and including swaps while who were out of territory.

We have four were covered and we have the one loss of person that died.

Vaccination status is incomplete.

We have yet to confirm those 16 cases.

And the ones we know of, we had fully vaccinated swatch will cases both of whom had very mild symptoms.

We've had another 16 or 17 where we still need to confirm.

And as there this morning 44 cases in Whitehorse and six and rule YUKON.

The cases have had very mild infection.

Remounting house but it is demonstrating the stark difference in outcomes.

And as previously mentioned this outbreak is one of the gamma, or the P1 variant which is clearly more transmissible than the previous COVID we news.

This has also been linked to a number of exposure events that I will discuss.

We are seeing strongly linked rates.

We are also seeing activity amongst young adults who have been frequently toasting recruiting various bars around Whitehorse.

It's the gathering behaviour around are in -- inside certain bars.

If we put that altogether there has been contact between cases and hundreds of other individuals.

And I expect we will continue to see additional cases that will likely number in the dozens and may reach hundreds.

Because they involve many people and there has been secondary spread within the households, we are now seeing widespread infection primarily amongst young unvaccinated adults and youth.

We have many cases where we have no known connections to a source yet although we suspect the cases are somehow linked backed to these initial gatherings.

Youth have not had vaccine available to them for long, though 17 and under so as a group they are still highly susceptible to COVID infection.

Younger adults happen coming forward much more for the first dose but 30 percent are still unvaccinated which is the group we have been more worried about because of them coming late to uptake and because of that natural tendency as we all experience to socialize closely and to gather.

What to do now?

We want to continue to test as many people as possible.

Anyone with symptoms even without a known exposure should get tested even as we identify some cases not directly connected to others.

If you are a household contact of the case, then follow your instructions of YCDC nurses and take that advice to art -- heart.

That best advice is who need to self isolate and how can from YCDC.

If you have been told to self monitor because you are a lower risk contact take that responsibility seriously and make sure you self isolate promptly.

If you believe you have been in contact with the case and haven't yet been in contact the best course of action would be to self isolate and call for advice.

Here are more specific instructions for those who frequented certain gatherings linked to the outbreak.

Anyone who participated in the seam up postgrad event on June 10th to 11th overnight is considered a contact of someone with COVID-19 and should isolate until June 25th.

There was people who participated in first nations after grout event and those people if they haven't already been

contacted should consider themselves contacts.

And the Porter Creek grade 12 students and staff are considered a contact.

Anyone else involved from June 4th to tenth in group activities and the camping group from the fourth to 6th of June, Sunday June the 6th foil and balloon event at Porter Creek and a cap and gown rehearsal and June 10th, consider yourself contacts.

All of these contacts should isolate until June 25th.

If you are fully vaccinated you do not need to self isolate but should self monitor and get tested if any symptoms occur.

There are now hundreds of people in self isolation and that is what you might call a focused lockdown measure which is how we will control this outbreak.

That means a lot of people have been tested and a lot of people will continue to be tested.

And I wanted to thank the laboratory staff at our hospital then have been running rapid testing as well as our laboratory colleagues in BC where we experienced a tremendous turnaround time considering the travel involved.

Most of our results are coming within two days so what does close contact mean?

It could mean chatting with someone for a few more minutes at a party without proper physical distancing, perhaps you shared a drink or a vape or you kiss them or have someone cough or sneeze on you or sang a song together.

Remember that this Gamma variant is much more easily transmissible than the previous strains we knew.

But vaccine protects well against this variants and we have seen that more and more with some Canadian studies including from BC.

Amongst those who were unvaccinated this variants travels fast.

These numbers can seem pretty frightening when the amount quickly.

We will see cases come in day after day for a while.

This is our first widespread outbreak and has outstripped anything we've seen before.

If we see many cases there is more chance for serious disease to occur.

So yes, we are concerned about panic is not necessary and fear will not help.

We know how to respond to outbreaks.

Our health providers and our testers know what to do and we all have a role whether as providers or leaders or as public and each of these rules is crucial to play well.

We know what to do and we need to do it.

The premium preferred to the safe six plus one, the same mantra we've used for over a year.

Although immunization is an extremely effective tool it does take some time to fully protect us which is why we must stay vigilant to prevent further transmission.

If you are not yet fully vaccinated it is essential even more so that you practice the safe six plus one.

And as the premier reflected I know and understand many of you are tired and may not see the continued risk but the practices are crucial to our own and fellow Yukoners health and well-being.

Keep a distance of at least watch while metres are 6 feet with everyone who is outside of your social bubble, and if you are sick please stay home and seek testing even though you may feel you can power through.

This is not the time to introduce people into your bubble.

Don't invite those you don't know if you plan to have a party for the solstice.

And continue to travel with respect and considerable risk when travelling between communities and a few decide to go make sure to follow the guidelines when you arrive.

Some communities may not be ready to welcome visitors but be respectful when making travel plan.

Self isolate when necessary if you plan to travel outside the territory.

Use masks if you cannot maintain physical distancing.

Even during outdoor events such as a farmers' market River maybe crowding or there -- it might be more difficult to maintain your distance consider wearing a mask.

Our progress over these next few weeks will be a shared

effort and we must work together to leave COVID-19 behind us and this may require extra effort on all of our parts.

We may up and put slightly off course but we will be able to continue on our path and progress.

I want to talk about the previous announcement -- the previous announcement we had made about the children under 12 and being able to shovel with unvaccinated -- if they are unvaccinated travelling with vaccinated parents or caregivers who are fully vaccinated and not having to self isolate and some people maybe surprised how to be comparable with this approach when we are in an outbreak.

But keep in mind this is a mood we have analysed previously.

And we found this risk to be very low.

And in Canada's climate of rapidly decreasing create cases this risk is probably even lower.

We wish to maintain that low risk of importation in this measure does not practically move that risk any higher.

Many families are depending on this provision and are planning trips accordingly.

I think this leads to a really important point.

The risk depends not so much on these occasional introductions because we've always had them but it's the conditions that favour spread of COVID in a territory.

It's not one case introduction that has gotten us into trouble it's the spread in close crowded and often clothes gatherings of people particularly now.

I've made the wildfire analogy a few times and as hotter weather approaches I think that's a good one.

Think of COVID cases as little sparks.

Think of unvaccinated people as fuel.

Knew of lots of fuel in one place
a single spark and cause a
wildfire.

Vaccination protects sparks
from causing much more than a
flicker.

COVID is looking for fuel and
finds it best and gatherings of
those who are not protected.

But it's a reminder if you plan to
travel with those unvaccinated
it's crucial you consider a few
variables.

While you were travelling
ensure you are Bublik equipped?

Cath nonmedical maxon hand
sanitizer and most importantly if
you visit your family or friends
make sure everyone feels well
and has not been exposed
before visiting them and we will
have additional information and
recommendations on travelling
with children under 12 on the
YUKON.ca website later this
week.

The success of this depends on
doing the right thing with your
children.

Before I end I know many of you were itching for things to reopen and life to transition back to normal.

This recent news is disappointing to all of us.

COVID-19 has turned out to be a tricky and aggressive virus that takes advantage of every opportunity.

We in the North are not immune.

Right now we feel the brunt of aggression.

In time we will continue to move forward safely but I ask all Yukoners to please do your part and follow the safe six plus one and if you are not vaccinated I urge you to book an appointment as this is our shot and I'm pleased from what I've heard although I don't have the numbers of significantly increased demand at our vaccine centres in rural or here in Whitehorse which is very gratifying and that is the right

way through to get us out of this pandemic.

Please take care of each other and if you feel sick stay home and self isolate and get tested.

Be kind to everyone and stay well.

>> Pat: We will now move to the phone lines and begin with Luke from CK RW.

>> Reporter: Doctor Hanley, you mention the hundreds of people that are now isolating and this being a focus lockdown measure.

Can you explain the comparison of that to tightening up restrictions again and why that is the approach?

>> Thank you and that's a question we have spent a lot of time thinking about.

I think that you know, I know I've said it many times but whether we are in an outbreak or preparing, we OEs tried to figure out where is the risk and what is the response that -- was

the right move that response to that risk and we are in a very different situation from what this could have been like before January and if we had the sorts of gatherings associated with the P1 variant and in unvaccinated YUKON we would already be in several hundred cases and we would see severe consequences with that many people so now we're in a very different situation where we have 72 at last count percent of our adults, fully vaccinated so we know the impact is very different and our focus is on doing everything we can to protect the vulnerable who are now essentially the people who are unvaccinated and the whole focus is on locking down this outbreak and getting anyone who was a contact to self isolate.

Doesn't mean we need to shut down society or we shut down businesses because that's not where we are seeing risk.

The response needs to be different than the typical

response we might have had to do or other places are doing.

This is part of our rocky road to transition to an endemic state of living with COVID.

We are seeing very different impact but now a significant impact amongst our younger population and you see how it is so widespread, but without overwhelming anyone place because people are carrying back infection to where they live having acquired it and other places.

And this does look like because we are seeing P1, one source that has spread into this unvaccinated -- these unvaccinated populations and we want these populations to isolate when exposed and we want to encourage vaccination.

But locking down the rest of the community doesn't make sense.

I know that's a long answer to a short question.

>> Pat: You have a second question?

>> Reporter: With all that being said what is the next stab to combat this last little stretch of vaccine hesitancy where receive 20 or 25 percent still not necessarily believing they should get the vaccine.

>> As I ascend we are seeing a pickup and for some it's that realization that this is real and this does has an impact and it can still kill people and God people seriously ill.

I know there was people lining up for vaccine.

I think for some they needed to see this is real and this can affect our community.

There is already some answer to those who were perhaps holding back.

The other part is there are some refuses to I think we'll never come for vaccine but I think that's a pretty small percentage.

And with the rest we continue to plug away.

For many people it's continuing the conversation and setting goals for longer.

We will not get everyone vaccinated in a hurry where people have various reasons and sometimes it's trust, sometimes it's building up that trust.

I think we don't give up and we set our sights for the short and longer-range and we continue to provide what we can in terms of support and information.

Part of it is working with communities through what to do when there is an outbreak.

What are the protections and the right measures?

And we will get there.

>> Pat: We will now move to Camille from the Canadian press.

>> Reporter: This is for the premier.

You mentioned enforcement would be stepped out.

Can you say what that will be
and win that will start.

>> We talked with our ECC
emergency coordinators and I
know the minister has been
talking with the RCMP.

I've been talking with chiefs as
well.

We need people, if you see
people breaking the rules is a
phone line to call.

We need to increase our
vigilance.

Someone communities are
fearful of the gathering
happening at solstice.

I will reach out to RCMP to
coordinate for these gatherings.

In Dawson every year people go
up on the road and party for
solstice.

We need to make sure if we
know where people are
gathering and not respecting the
guidelines we need to make
sure there is our presence.

If you see someone who is doing things they shouldn't do and we get some anecdotes all the time, and I urge folks to use that hotline.

We have enforcement officers and now it's time for us to revisit our strategies and make sure we focus in on those who are not following the guidelines.

Most Yukoners are doing exceptional jobs of keeping us safe.

I've been at this table many times talking about restaurants in town and how amazing they have been to make sure folks and their restaurants are doing it safely.

And we can increase the capacity side because of the diligence of the staff but this is a stark reminder that I spoke about just yesterday.

One of the most vaccinated jurisdictions in North America is having an outbreak and how do we focus in on what Doctor Hanley has been talking about

for months going from pandemic to endemic and how do we get that message out to people.

If you just think it's this Bush party it's next year as well, the next decade.

Covid's not going away anytime soon and a few have no reason to not be vaccinated you need to think about your behaviour.

Our obligation is to make sure the rules are enforced and we are redoubling our efforts.

>> Pat: Do you have another question Camille.

>> Reporter: I did not get an answer fully about what stepping up enforcement means.

Are fines going out are more enforcement officers hired?

Can you give me some details?

>> I will leave that up to the team at ECC you to make those recommendations as to what extra resources they need.

We need to make sure we have the people in place and those in the past what we had as well.

And they have different jobs.

And we will take the recommendations.

And the message is clear we will be more President and getting anecdotal information.

There's been a lot of extra effort.

I don't have a dollar value at that's what you are looking for but we're making sure the enforcement is the control peace.

Doctor Hanley can give us recommendations and our job is to make sure we enforce the orders we have in place and we will make sure we are reviewing how we do that currently.

To make sure folks are getting faience.

>> Reporter: You mentioned the children under 12 travelling with parents but I'm wondering about other restrictions that have been loosened.

Whether there was any thought given to tightening those up again.

Given the outbreak.

>> I can start.

We are confident with the measures in place that they are appropriate and our contact team has been absolutely slammed because of the large social gatherings and those who are not practising safe six plus one.

But the current measures in place we believe we are following the guidelines and we also need to continue to encourage Yukoners to get fully vaccinated.

Minister McPhee congratulated the Yukon aboriginals counsel for their protecting Yukon's health project.

Is these efforts of making sure we have the diligence and communities that are keeping people safe and that project was designed to build trust and relationships and provide

cultural reassurance and this is a fantastic initiative it's very important.

The vaccine is the best tool we have to get us out of this pandemic.

Coupled with the amazing work that Dr Hanley is doing we make sure everyone is adhering to the guidelines for the this point we are confident that the measures are appropriate as we deal with it.

>> Doctor Hanley?

>> To echo what the premier said, we did think about this a lot.

And it's where we seem the risk and where we seeing spread and it really is in these uncontrolled social gathering situations of many of which we named.

Where we have controls and we do well.

And we can consider the impacts of imposing restrictions

when we are in a highly vaccinated population.

Every approach will be different when we have high vaccine rates.

And we gotta make the right recommendations and those recommendations if followed are still appropriate for where we are.

And let's get on top of this outbreak so we can get over this and get more people vaccinated to continue with our move towards relaxing restrictions.

>> Pat: Do have a second question?

>> Reporter: I do not.

>> Pat: Will move to temper the Whitehorse star.

>> Reporter: Good morning.

My first question is for the premier or Doctor Hanley.

Can you tell us whether these organized events adhere to the proper regulations et cetera or is it being a problem?

>> Organized events are not the problem.

We have an -- we have a small community and the ability to get the guidelines in place for organized events.

We are confident the measures being put in place, they are appropriate.

And that's the problem.

It's the unorganized event.

It's not about people that are adhering to the guidelines it's those that are not.

If we find ourselves in a situation where we still see people breaking those rules we will need to readjust the strategy.

The best way to get over this is to make sure we follow those rules and if you know people who aren't it's up to us to -- is not about shame or blame, it's about making people know what the rules are and it's not just about you getting sick, it's

about the community being healthy.

People's mental health is strained and we have young folks who were unvaccinated that we're very worried about because when COVID hits you when you were unvaccinated it's powerful and when you are vaccinated is not as powerful.

We are confident with the measures now but we need to focus in on adherence to those guidelines.

>> Pat: Do you have a second question Tim?

>> Reporter: Could I get a comment on the decision by the NWT to cancel the travel exemption between the territories.

>> Every jurisdiction in Canada is following advice from medical officers and are making the decisions and each region is very different and makes their decision based upon health and safety guidelines and I won't

comment on behalf of Premier
Cochran.

He spoke with premier dose the
premier of none of it and the
premier of NWT and we keep in
close conversation with each
other which is paramount and
we wish all three territories well
as we get into recovery mode
hopefully as soon as possible
respecting that every jurisdiction
has big tough decisions to make.

>> Pat: We will now move to
Philippe from CBC.

>> Reporter: Doctor Hanley
what are your current
recommendations when it
comes to travel between
communities?

Is this a suspension of the great
Yukon summer campaign?

>> That's a good question.

I welcome additional comments
from the premier and the grand
Chief.

My perspective is we are not
suspending the campaign,
anything but

reminding -- morsel reminding
that travel is a 12 Huawei
communication and we need to
be mindful that we have several
communities that have cases.

Some First Nations have taken
some additional steps and we
vobis talked about respectful
and mindful travel and I think
that is the key word.

If you plan sure tripped for the
great Yukon summer which I
encourage people to do and I
look forward to that myself, it's,
you know, check in with where
the community is and many of
them have information on their
websites and I think it's just
being mindful and respectful of
where we are which is a pretty
tense time and there's a lot of
natural concern about where
this outbreak is going.

I think just some of that
consideration needs to be added
into the decisions.

>> Pat: Premier silver?

>> We had a meeting amongst
ministers and one of the

ministers asked Doctor Elliott, I'm planning a trip, should I still go in the response was if you were travelling safely there is a reason we are here.

To make sure people can do that.

It's great to know one of the safe sex is travel respectfully and possibly we are going to be living with COVID and as long as you adhere to the recommendations and the guidelines, you should enjoy a great Yukon summer.

This too shall pass and we will make sure the recommendations and guidelines are following on a daily basis.

We will very quickly get those out to the public but the rules are there to exactly do that, to do it safely and get out there and enjoy this amazing summer.

>> Pat: Grants achieve the governments to make that call but we also will various communities that have low vaccinations and we encourage

everyone to get the shot but we do need to be respectful to those who have a jurisdiction to make that call.

I want to advise on that platform.

>> Pat: Do you have a second question?

>> Reporter: Could Doctor Hanley tell us about staffing and capacity in our hospital system.

Can staff handle this new case volume and is material taxed by this?

Power we handling this?

>> Is a really important question.

Among our indicators for research and or if we needed to go into a more restricted state what are the indicators, and one of them is the hospital capacity amongst the Whitehorse and the rural hospitals.

With acute-care capacity around the community health centres but also our public health capacity.

I think the premier said it, they happen slammed and they have.

And it is amazing, to see --

[Laughter]

>> To see the turnaround in case information that we are getting so we can stay on top of this and it's just line after line as those cases are identified and their links.

But that's a strain but they have an internal surge and they have added staff and we are collectively staying on top of this.

And it is so important to help the contact tracing ability by doing everything I did, trying to emphasize in terms of those exposures to do the right thing.

We have that individualized contact tracing this is a crucial part of it as well.

And to address your question, the impact on the acute-care facilities has been relatively low and there has been an impact to recognize the liberatory testing.

If he beat out patient department I think because of the protocols they have for Hurst, they have been able to handle this very well and credit to the cooperation we have with colleagues in the acute-care system and the Dawson Watson Lake hospital and there is always absent flows with everything else, and so important that care continues so we meet people's ongoing needs whether emergency acute-care or chronic care, hospitalizations and surgeries.

I think we're doing okay.

This is a strain and we can do it over a shorter time and when we get over the outbreak they will be time for recuperation and again as we get that higher vaccine rates, if we could get as many people continuing to get faxing and it means the impact of anyone outbreak is that much lower and that much less strained on the system.

>> Pat: We will now move to Julian from CBC -- I'm sorry, premier silver?

>> I want to add on a federal bases and we did say exactly what the doctor has said spokesperson land and the system is coping well.

And life goes on if we get in to a situation where we need extra supports tacky outline that support that happened in Manitoba, that federal support would be there if we get to a situation when we needed.

With the capacity and Yukon being Mayor even though our medical community has been doing an extraordinary job working around the clock.

>> Pat: You will now move to Julian from CBC.

>> This is for the premier.

Following along the lines of stepping up enforcement and I did not really hear and answer but you also mentioned as well they are some in bars who are

breaking the rules, are they not distancing.

>> Pat: There is a certain -- certain things we hear.

I say to people I can't do anything with anecdotes but if you have something specific we need to know what that is.

We also know when we come in to the situations for the last 16 months where we are in a situation where there is more COVID and more concerned what we've seen is an mapping of those measures and nothing is changing other than we are in an outbreak.

And we're just making sure we double up efforts.

And when we have zero cases and there is not enough enforcement.

Enforcement increases when we have this money and resources will be available.

>> Pat: Do you have a second question Julian.

Speed smack I know the tip line was mentioned but what does doubling up efforts mean?

We've never seen as many cases before.

Can you explain what you mean by doubling up on efforts?

>> When we have more cases we need to do more enforcement.

That's what we've seen in the past.

This is the most cases we have seen but the message to the department is we need to make sure the enforcement is there.

And that's what we're going to do.

I don't know what you are looking for if it's a dollar value or who but those details are being worked out and we know every time we have and increasing cases one of the things the government can do is ensure that's included as well.

We've had failure to self isolate,
1,269 complaints with gathering
sizes data.

, failure to wear a mask or self
distance is all relevant
information and sometimes in
the past year we've had not us
much of a need and we've seen
these officers who have other
jobs go back to those jobs.

We are seeing an understanding
of how we will make sure these
folks who can't enforce these
rules are back in those positions.

And so that's what we are
doing.

And there was five new
charges, a failure to isolate,
providing false information and
false while different failures to
declare enforcement charges
and what we will see in the
redoubling of efforts is as cases
increase and it's because of not
following the rules what we will
see as an increase in the
enforcement and in answering
this question we will make sure
the resources are there to make
sure the enforcement is Don.

>> Pat: Thank you.

[Speaking French]

>> Voice of Interpreter: Yes.

[Speaking French]

>> Andre: Were there specific moments where people have been vaccinated twice and they need to self isolate or need to be of special precautions if their kids or anyone else has been exposed.

[Speaking French]

[Speaking French]

[Speaking French]

>> Andre: Can you give specific examples of when parents should self isolate?

[Speaking French]

>> Pat: I won't ask you to repeat those as you said them in English.

Next we have Laurie from radio Canada.

[Speaking French]

>> Andre: Can you repeat in French why you have decided to go with targeted measures to face the outbreak before a more general response?

[Speaking French]

[Speaking French]

[Speaking French]

>> Pat: To have another question?

>> Reporter: Yes, please.

[Speaking French]

>> Andre: What are we at this point for finding the source of this outbreak and what will happen if this outbreak is related to the opening of the border?

[Speaking French]

[Speaking French]

[Speaking French]

>> Pat: We've have had a request -- premail server?

>> De want to translate first and I might say what you are saying?

>> The question was whether this was an outbreak which has been linked to the opening of the borders and I first began with saying the borders are -- that whole question of what's in open border is a bit technical.

We don't have entry restrictions which I do not say in French but what we had was a selective quarantine removal of quarantine restrictions around the fully vaccinated which to me is not an opening.

That is a selective exception to the need to self isolate.

We don't know we are the sources and we may never know.]

It's because you can often get an individual who for whatever reason brought and infection.

You could be having someone who did not comply with medical work but somehow infection got in.

But what we may not do is pick up that individual and when you

start to see spread you make at a generation of spread and you see people symptomatic.

It's to bring us back to the theme where we've always had occasional introductions.

You cannot make an impermeable fortress.

It's what we do with these introductions that is a harm -- far more important factor.

>> Pat: Premier silver.

>> The borders have never been close, you know?

The number of travellers over we were dealing with cloak -- COVID is close to 100,000 units.

The last time was because of a flood and the roads were closed.

You can't close on a border, we don't want to and and that's a small measure to allow vaccinated individuals not to self isolate.

>> Pat: I'd like to thank everyone
for their time today and the
regular update will take place
Wednesday the 23rd at
10:30 AM.