

COVID-19 Facebook live update: June 23, 2021

[Please Stand By]

>> Pat: I'm 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.

Kwanlin Dün Doris Bill and the Chief Medical Officer of Health Doctor Brendan Hanley.

Sign language interpretation is provided by Kevin Klein and French translation by Andre.

We will go to the phone line for questions from reporters afterwards and will call you by name and you will have taught 12 questions.

>> Hello everyone and thank you for joining us on the territory of the Kwanlin Dün first nation in Taa'an Kwächän Council.

I'm happy to be here with Kwanlin Dün First Nations chief Doris, as Doctor Hanley.

We have an outbreak of COVID 19 in the territory.

It has touched nearly all communities.

We have seen more cases in the last 14 days then we have in the last 14 months.

I know this is concerning but it's important to remember we know how to live with COVID.

We have been living with Ed for well over a year and will most likely continue to deal with it.

The fundamentals remain the same as they did when we had no cases.

Tracing and testing are essential to containing the spread.

If you are experiencing symptoms please arrange to get tested.

This includes anything from fevers, chills, coughs difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat, loss of sense of taste or smell, headache, fatigue and loss of appetite and nausea and vomiting, diarrhea and muscle aches.

Anyone experiencing these symptoms should arrange to be tested.

It's filed to controlling spread and don't hesitate to get tested you can call the COVID 19 testing and assessment Centre at 867393, 3083 or online booking can hop into arrange for testing and follow the links on YUKON.ca.

Those Monroe communities can contact for rural health centres to arrange for testing and Doctor Hanley and his team are conducting a community by committee risk assessment to ensure we are providing expanded testing and went and where it is needed, testing and turnaround time is quick, 24 to 36 hours and negative tests cannot be accessed online for faster access to results, this follow the links on YUKON.ca and one positive test results come in that is when we moved to contact tracing.

When someone tests positive for COVID 19 these public professionals and health professionals work with them to help them to remember everyone they've had close contacts already during the time when they could be spreading the virus.

They are known as contacts.

The health professionals get in touch to let them know they been exposed to COVID.

YCDC and the Yukon community nursing will provide contacts with information and education.

And specific direction on what to do including what signs and symptoms we watch for and how to access timely testing if required.

Contacts will not be given the name of the person who may have exposed them.

If the person is outside YUKON we get information from the jurisdiction, where they live and where they went and follow but with those contacts.

If someone from YCDC someone will phone you if you are contact or someone with COVID 19 was in your business for longer than 15 minutes.

Not all contacts can be traced because we don't have enough details about where an infected person was but not enough information to know who was in close contact or we are unsure about where an infected person was.

In these cases Doctor Hanley and his team will issue a public notice and identify they may have visited by the person affected by COVID.

This information about contact tracing comes from the YUKON website, this is where you can find the most accurate and up to date information in the territory.

I know a lot of people rely on social media to talk about what is happening in their lives and I hope if you have questions on COVID 19 where you are going is to the government website at YUKON.ca.

And has the most accurate and up to date information including contact tracing, why we do public notifications and those types of things.

The same approach we use for every positive case and all communities, the same approach.

It has worked phenomenally well so far.

I do want to thank the team at YCDC and the community nurses for all of their hard work about this pandemic.

This is the work of heroes and we owed them all a gratitude.

If you are contacted by YCDC are community nursing because you have received a

positive test or because you are a contact it's important you are honest and open to ensure officials can do their job properly.

Contact tracing is essential to contain outbreaks and these people are there to help you and your friends and neighbours stay safe.

When it comes to keeping yourself and your loved ones safe the best thing you can do is get vaccinated.

Most of the new cases we have seen how often those not vaccinated.

Unvaccinated individuals are at much greater risk of the pandemic.

COVID 19 spreads much more easily among those not vaccinated.

Without vaccine protection you were at much greater risk of having more severe symptoms that can result in hospitalization and death.

The few fully vaccinated individuals that have been affected have been relatively mild.

No one wants to get sick but you can take steps to protect yourself from getting seriously and potentially needing intensive care.

Vaccines provide the best level of protection available.

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

We have enough vaccines for everyone who wants one and we are extending youth vaccine clinics which will be continuing to offer first dose for use in communities youth can receive their first dose at the next community clinic and youth can book an appointment online or walk in to the clinic at the convention centre.

Appointments can be booked online and YUKON.ca/thisisourshot.

If you have any efficacy concerns please reach out or talk to those you know who have received the vaccine and ask them about why they took their shot.

I want to thank my cabinet members and leaders as Doctor Hanley for getting immunized and talking about it publicly.

"I got my shot, now it's your turn".

From Chief Bill.

Getting immunized at the best ways to protect yourself and your family, your friends, your colleagues.

The vaccine will provide our way through this pandemic.

COVID 19 is not going away anytime soon but if we maximize our immunization rates we can live with it in a way that keeps our territory safe.

I said earlier the fundamentals remain the same and that includes protecting yourself and others by practising safe sex.

Wash your hands often.

Maintain physical distancing.

Travel responsibly and respectfully.

Self isolate as needed and follow gathering guidelines.

We know people have not been following the safe six which has contributed to this outbreak.

We also know how to follow the safe six and that's what we've been practising for months and we must continue practising the safe six plus one.

Masking is a simple thing you can do.

The last thing that like to address before passing it over is events.

The Porto Creek senior secondary school prom event had to be cancelled due to a member of the grad class receiving a positive COVID 19 test which was disappointing

news but it was important to protect health and safety which is the only event that's the only event that has been cancelled due to public health reasons.

We have not changed any restrictions around gatherings or events.

What's most important as people follow the safe six plus 14 the guidelines are in place.

I know there's a lot of events planned and I hope they will continue and that goes for summer camps as well.

Many groups have organizational plans for they were events that have been reviewed and approved.

These events can continue as before.

If people think about organizing events but don't have an operational plan you can work to get one approved.

We're going to live with COVID 19 for a long time and need to get comfortable.

We know how to live with COVID 19 because we have been doing so.

We need to recommit to practising safe six plus one, keep the health and safety of fellow Yukoners in mind but we need to continue to live our lives.

The community market is happening in fire lead which is a great place to connect with people and support local farmers and artisans.

These kinds of events are so important to our quality of life.

Getting out and connecting is really important for mental health.

Just make sure it's done safely.

Stay kind and patient and support each other and we will get through this together.

Thank you.

>> Pat: Chief Bill?

[Speaking Indigenous Language]

>> Thank you for inviting me alongside Premier Silver and Doctor Hanley.

I want to thank everyone working hard to contain this outbreak.

I want to send my best wishes to those who are sick.

Shoe everyone who is having a hard time dealing with this reality.

I know many people are hurting and are scared and are feeling down and I invite everyone to step back and take a deep breath and think about what important.

Think about what's most important to you and what do you hold dear?

For me it's my family and my friends and my community.

I want to show up for them.

Do the best I can.

Since the pandemic began I know I've been missing things from my life.

Things like travel, hogs and gatherings had now that we are in an outbreak situations some of those things seem farther away than ever.

The only way to turn that around is for all to present a united front against this virus.

All of us as Yukoners can do our part and it takes just a few simple steps.

Get vaccinated.

Whether you are 12 or 112 it's the best thing you can do to protect yourself and the people around you.

Second follow the safe six plus one.

That means keeping a 12 Twyman made her distance from anyone outside your small social bubble.

It me in self isolate when been asked to and this one is really important because this is where we see you transmission happening in the Yukon.

No gathering or parties.

That means now is not the time to invite people to your house.

Now is not the time to go house to house partying.

Now is not the time to have a gathering or party or even a bush party.

Third, get tested if you have COVID 19 symptoms.

Especially if you are not fully vaccinated.

And lastly it's more important than ever we be kind to one another.

Many people are going through difficult times and now is the time to be supportive and lift each other up.

If you need mental wellness supports reach out for help.

It's okay to ask for help.

We've all said these things before.

I know you've heard them before.

But this time I invite you to think about why it's important.

Who need you to be there for them?

Who will you embrace when this outbreak subsides and we learn to live with COVID 19?

Where will you travel?

What is your why?

[Speaking Indigenous Language]

>> Please be safe.

>> Doctor Hanley.

>> Thank you both for your wise words.

As the premier sense 14 days and we've seen more cases than in the last 14 months.

An explosive rising cases is part of what happens.

Many cases and then a leveling off as we proceed on the journey of methodically finding cases and isolating them and managing any clusters or associated outbreaks and reestablishing control and containment.

For the moment with a high number of cases in the unvaccinated population we need to continue to take an aggressive approach to find cases of COVID 19 throughout the territory this outbreak as a harsh reminder as we follow we need to proceed with care and continue to abide by whenever public health measures are in place at the time and I'm going to spend the next few minutes over viewing our current situation and what we should expect over the next days and weeks.

Getting an exact numbers are always in flux.

As we get new information on cases and recoveries throughout the day.

And our status as of this morning and by this afternoon those numbers maybe slightly different.

In this outbreak we have a total of 100 and 44 cases from June 1st to present and active cases is at 103.

We have a total of five people hospitalized, three who are still currently in hospital one of whom is out of territory.

Two locally and one who is stable and one who is more serious.

The spectrum is that want to cases med backed out and no one in serious condition here are all unvaccinated.

They have either been partially vaccinated or fully vaccinated in the last case if they are stable.

And terms of vaccine status 122 out of 144 total cases unvaccinated.

Which amounts to 85 percent and our age range is one to 90 years old and all the screenings have been taken place and they've all screened positive for the Gamma variant the number of people fully vaccinated that have been affected is 8 percent and all but one of those have had mild to very mild symptoms.

And all the cases that have been screened or calming a back suggesting a unique source and that this is ultimately one large outbreak.

The total number of unique contacts are over 550.

Many people have been self isolating or self monitoring.

Multiple communities from those attending the parties and gatherings in early June.

And we have seen some cases not linked to others.

, about 90 percent of cases to know cases or clusters but not every chain has been identified meaning us some people may get sick with COVID without knowing they have been in contact with the infection and that's why if you are sick it's important to seek testing.

In summary we're facing a new challenge.

The most extensive outbreak by far but in a territory were well over 70 percent are fully vaccinated, what does this mean?

First, I want to prepare you all that we are going to see more cases and I believe we have moved past the initial rush of cases which are now about two weeks past our case counts will continue to grow as ongoing transmission and smaller clusters may occur.

What is the strategy to manage this outbreak?

It lies in a few key areas.

The case finding and contact tracing, we want to find people who are infectious and isolate them to prevent others from getting infected.

And we are looking for cases with anyone with symptoms.

That's why we asked people to get tested.

Testing may also involve random testing or asymptomatic testing if we have evidence of multiple exposures in confined settings over an isolated community or group setting.

And the third is analysis where we are putting together the information on where people are and to their contacts are to draw maps of transmission so we can understand what is driving the outbreak.

Gatherings and onward contacts such as households or family have been the main route of transmission involving multiple contacts in communities whether in Whitehorse or rural.

The fourth is vaccination and we continue to offer vaccine wherever we can.

Public measures, we are not so far seeing ongoing transmission.

Such as sports events or restaurants or gatherings apart from the initial ones so I'm not recommending reimposing any restrictions but we need to reinforce what we should already be doing undercurrent measures and orders.

These include inspections to bars and restaurants to ensure clients are cooperative.

Reads reinforce and support those who are self isolating.

And we need to screen those who are sick.

And communications of course keeping you apprised reminding you about getting tested and where to get tested and where to get vaccine and how to observe self isolation and what it means and what to do when you get a positive or negative test to get through self isolation or difficult day and support to communities.

And logistical support and testing and vaccines, just conversations as well, of course,, the role of testing and isolation will be a key part in our approach and it's a critical so we will need to continue to use as the days go on and I want to thank all the Yukoners who have come forward, many hundreds and I would like to thank to stress the importance of booking an appointment.

You may think you have a summer cold, you may think it's just a sore throat but any sore throat or sniffles can be COVID 19.

If there is one take away.

If you are sick, self isolate and arrange for assessed especially if you are not yet fully vaccinated.

As part of the testing strategy we are responding and various waste to the needs of communities based on their requests and risks associated with COVID in the community.

At present COVID is present in most communities and could easily be circulating unrecognized and others.

, we want to support the community and be present as they go through what can be a frightening experience.

We will closely with those who are at risk for additional exposures and ensure the testing approach can be added to existing capacity if needed.

We can deploy rapid testing through the use of the devices that can return test results in a matter of 15 minutes but remember for the last year and a half testing has been

accessible from every health centre or hospital and all communities have been testing more and drivers have been working extra shifts to run samples back and forth and I want to thank all the drivers who were making repeated long journeys to get the swamps sent for an ongoing quick turnaround.

The online results assisting has allowed many people to get their results earlier and testing is one of the ways we're working to ensure we do our best to protect the most vulnerable.

And in Ross River we actually are testing this afternoon with rapid testing using the avid ID and that's Wednesday Thursday and Friday afternoons between two and five and at the same time, the youth clinic for the Pfizer vaccine is running in Ross River and the maternal vaccine continues to be available through the Health centre and in all our other health centres.

And as for self isolation if you had been advised or directed to self isolate it really means to self isolate.

Self isolation is an order under Yukon's public health and safety act, we have seen transmission from cases to contacts when self isolation rules are not followed.

You need to not share any common space and do not breathe the same air.

Remember there is no forgiveness.

The P1 variant will spread to all members of one household if self isolation is not extra clean adhere to.

If you were unsure of what to do, or how to do self isolation do reach out to call.

Vaccination asked the premier will emphasize, vaccines present us with the solution to combating this particular infectious disease and the more Yukoners are immunize the less likely we are to spread the virus to one another.

Even if you don't feel the need to get the vaccine on your own benefit and can protect those who love and lives with or work with or share any space with?

One key lesson from this outbreak is how well we are protected and how much were soft we would be without it.

Remember the path forward means that vaccine replaces border controls as the ways to strengthen the foundation to protect us against COVID infection and still we do have many people in territory who are vulnerable and even though the impact would have been far worse a few months ago they stows there still are.

And others have been admitted to hospital and of these five only one had partial vaccine and one fully vaccinated and the rest had none and this is the same story we have seen an vaccine may yet have an impact on helping us out of this current outbreak but more important is a high vaccine uptake will help us prevent or reduce the threat of the next outbreak.

For there will be more introductions and as long as we have fuel available COVID will burn.

And we will be extending the youth vaccine can as we move through communities the second doses, we will also offer first doses.

At this time we are not planning a visit but youth who got Pfizer and the next week or so will be able to be offered modernity for their second shot.

We are now confident that the messenger RM mRNA vaccines are interchangeable.

In the meantime public health measures are still in place to reduce the risk of other outbreak sourced COVID and a territory.

We all must continue to observe that safe six plus one.

Make sure you are following the safe six plus wearing a mask and are keeping yourself and others around you safe.

As we move through his next few weeks, we must be aware of what our choices do and how this changes.

I recognize there are some people who maybe worried about the many summer camps and the events going ahead.

I understand there's a fear over the anger mentally and the risk for infection, there is a risk which is why a following of safety protocols is going to be so important but with careful observance of protocols I have advised that the camps can proceed and children can enjoy all the benefits that they can get from camp activities.

We are working closely to reinforce the best practices that need to be adhere to while kids can learn new skills and have fun doing so.

Many parents and caregivers are dependent on camps for care and fun and similar to summer camps for any events as the premier referred to we are referring alongside event operators to revise their plans.

With the attendance to evaluate the risk for any event.

As the premier mentioned the Porter Creek Radovan was the one we had to cancel based on its timing around the outset.

And it's potential to amplify a rapidly evolving outbreak and although some organizations have chosen to cancel their event my goal is to support events that proceed in a safe of a way as possible and for many months and most on a pedestal with zero active cases anti vaccination rates all eyes were on us and now the same eyes are on us.

Highly vaccinated territory is undergoing the most significant outbreak.

These next few weeks will determine our future as well and we learn how to manage in outbreak highly vaccinated population.

And I understand that anxiety.

And many Yukoners feel this right now, there is anxiety about what spend next.

Outbreaks will continue to be part of the new normal and vaccine has allowed us to half that shift to endemic.

And how we predict to manage and control outbreaks.

Our solutions cannot be reliant on lockdowns and ever tighten restrictions and we have tried to play that balance of risk between being overshoot down and too exposed.

We have some homework to do as we concentrate on containing this outbreak.

Asked her risk decreases, and at the situation improves that gradual opening up to support well being and our mental health is a journey that will continue.

For now it is safe six plus one as we phase out of those measures there will be elements we can always keep such as handwashing and even continuing to wear a mask in certain situations but vaccination against COVID 19 and in need to keep testing will remain a part of our lives for months.

Our new normal bowl carry the risk of outbreaks from time to time and what is up to us is how much we can further reduce the risk by steadily increasing our vaccine uptake and clearly even 72 percent of fully vaccinated outtake is not enough for us to tolerate an outbreak.

And by pushing our population to 80 percent and beyond, the impact of future introductions will become less and last.

This pandemic has uprooted so much of our lives and has cause sickness and separation.

Oppose pandemic life scenes hard to fathom when we are undergoing an outage break and it may seem odd but we need to take this into consideration that the path of recovery will not follow an easy straight line.

As we vaccinate and test the path it could be long and erratic.

Over time this will become easier and as long as vaccination rates climb we will be in a much better situation.

Let's carry on with the work ahead by doing the right thing.

Including as chief bill outlined, avoiding risky gatherings.

Getting tested and staying home and away from others.

As always as true Yukoners looking after each other with kindness and respect.

Be kind and stay well.

Thank you.

>> Pat: We will now move to questions from reporters.

[Speaking French]

>> Andre: Doctor Hanley, there was a surge at the vaccination clinic this week and it seems many of them were for first doses.

Do you have numbers on how many of these were first doses and what is your general take on what it means and what you are projecting going forward with this phenomenon?

[Speaking French]

>> Pat: Can your P. that an English?

>> I shouldn't quote chief bill in French.

That wasn't fair.

[Laughter]

>> For many the motivation people needed was, chief Bill said just before this conference how for many people COVID is real or that realization COVID is real and is

here is what push them and I think that's true and we did see around the territory a significant uptick in demand.

And I don't have I was handed some figures I'm going to take some time to look over and we will distribute these but it's in the order of 900 Yukoners in a week receiving first doses.

>> Pat: Thank you.

>> Do have some need to add?

>> Pat: Go ahead.

>> Total vaccine since June 17th, 57,017, first doses is 30,602 and second doses is 26,415.

>> Pat: Thank you.

>> [Inaudible Comment]

>> In terms of percentage we are at 18 plus, 82% dose one.

74% dose two.

[Repeating in French.

>> Pat: To have another question.

>> Reporter: I will ask it in English but if I can have an answer and French and English, please.

There has been concern regarding the protection of personal information and the fact that when we have this little card it's not proof of vaccination as many might think.

At the airport you still need to agree to share any information request.

That could be full medical records and I'd like to know why do we have this card?

When do you think it could be approved and snow, Ottawa is asking for returning Canadians if they can show a proof of vaccination.

What would be this proof.

>> [Inaudible Comment]

>> The verification process is different than the card.

And we are experiencing at difference in different provinces and jurisdictions and we know we have a digital connection to BC so it is helpful signing off and saying you can access my information.

The details about further medical records, I'm just hearing about this and this is the second time I've heard of this as a concept and I don't know what other information is being asked for and I will look into that.

>> I will say in English and give something in French.

The card is a reminder and souvenir but it does not pass grade as a verification so when it comes to the need to upload into Canada arrive, we need a way to take verifiable information from the record and uploaded which is a process in the works.

In terms of the verification for those coming in it is based on consent and I am not fully sure about that question about access to medical records.

[Speaking French]

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

>> Reporter: I'm not sure if this has been mentioned since this outbreak started but was there ever an identification of a direct source for the impartation of the.

>> Pat: Variant and a territory and I'm curious if it was a travel related case that slipped under the radar?

>> Thank you Luke.

I would be surprised if we ever find the source.

The reason is that when the gap between the actual introduction of the source and the detection of cases is usually after one or two generations of transmission have occurred.

And to trace back to an individual event or person becomes very difficult.

And you cannot piece together enough information to get that story.

Saying that they had COVID.

What we do have is by looking at symptom onsets we are able to backtrack so we can estimate the introduction likely occurred in middle of May, probably sometime around Victoria Day long weekend.

And probably started to spread, perhaps there was a traveller and there was transmission and then back at augmented and it's probably some kind of breach weather intentional or unintentional and that probably was the introduction event and again I think the important lesson is recognizing there always will be links and those introduction events and what can we learn about this to prevent the amplification of an introduction.

>> Follow up?

>> Reporter: Just the one question.

Thank you.

>> Reporter: Will move to the Canadian press.

>> Reporter: I have a question about this coming fall when international students will be coming in.

We've seen a number of students will be coming in where they still don't have access to vaccines and they have been shown to be very effective and do you think Canada

should be worried or have a plan in place for any potential outcomes and you've seen how cases are increasing.

>> This is a question for a federal government more so.

The questions about countries and mobility there and restrictions and gone clients is in the federal.

purview.

And we are giving them information about community connections in the United States first which is where the conversations are.

And Doctor Hanley you are more than welcome to answer this question.

>> We have a history of working with Yukon College unit and University in welcoming those international students who have arrived making sure they have the information they need and assuring self isolation facilities were in place and ensuring they knew about access to testing.

Our policy has been anyone who is living or working and it's a benefit to the community and if we have students coming in that were staying here and were not vaccinated by an approved vaccine we would be offering vaccine.

>> Pat: Do you have a second question?

>> Reporter: This is also about international events.

I was wondering what your thoughts are on the Olympic Games to be held next month in terms of if this could turn in to a super spreaders event and what steps do you think Canada and Canadian athletes should take to make sure it does not have a massive impact?

>> That's a question that's out of my scope.

And my philosophy, and my speaking gnosis to support events to go as long as public health updates are followed in terms of, and it's just a little out of my scope to speculate, there were many experts weighing in.

>> Pat: We will move to check from the Whitehorse star.

>> Reporter: There is been numbers thrown around here and I want to get it straight how many active cases do we have?

And we have 103 active cases in Yukon at present, with at the extent?

>> Reporter: Yes.

I know there was a little there was a little on June 21st you reported there was 100 active cases in on June 22nd there was 92.

So I wanted to confirm.

So we have 103?

All right.

I guess my next question, it's related to the people who have had both vaccinations and they are getting affected.

Did you say there was to watch while people that have been taken out?

In one of those was hospitalized here, an elderly person?

>> I will maybe go over that but the first thing, sorry, I want to reiterate that numbers will fluctuate because we have new cases that come in that are often resulting through the night and then collected in the morning and verified over a few hours.

And added to the case total and part of that is verifying the story and also determining if a meet residency status or not.

We now have people recovering and of course we expect a lot of recoveries because there are people infected and they will be affecting the numbers.

And the numbers posted will likely be different from what they are this morning.

Let me go over and I'm being a little bit more liberal, just because we have safety in numbers but also it's important to illustrate what is going on and how that matches what the evidence is telling us about vaccinated versus unvaccinated and it's important to know that people who are fully vaccinated can still get an infection but at about a 95 percent lower rate so sometimes we will see, overall, 12 people with infection fully vaccinated, 11 that have mild or very mild symptoms but one of whom is an elderly individual.

And that's one recent hospitalized case and we have another person in hospital locally who is unvaccinated and to is in serious condition.

And we had early on, those are the one more recent admission admissions.

We announced three all very close together near the beginning of this outbreak.

And false what of those were people who were sent South and another one was a local admission.

The one that was local was partially vaccinated and had a short stay and was stable and discharged.

The two that were sent out for care out of territory were unvaccinated.

>> Pat: Thank you.

Do have a second question.

>> Reporter: Do I have another one?

>> He's had to watch what.

[Laughter]

>> Pat: We will move then to gym from Yukon news.

>> Were there numbers available on what percentages have been youth under 17?

>> I don't have it by percentage.

That's something we can work on and get back to you want.

There have been youth under 17, there spent several with mild illness and mild symptoms.

As we expect with children and youth.

The exact breakdown I don't have with me.

>> Pat: Next question?

>> Reporter: As my only question.

>> Pat: We will move to Chris from CBC.

>> Reporter: Good morning and thank year.

A question for Doctor Hanley, we have seen given this current outbreak has resulted in numerous communities experiencing positive cases and given many local either First Nations or Minnesota will governments have revealed there are active cases in their communities and you said you want to be more liberal with some of this information are you going to revisit the policy of not identifying which communities have active cases?

>> That's a question on the table.

Is it more convenient for the communities and municipalities, doesn't enable them to give information back to their own communities more easily?

I have brought that up as a question for the chiefs to consider as well as the municipalities and I will connect with them today or tomorrow to go over this.

I think for public health value it as little.

The most important consideration is considerate as present in your community and act accordingly.

Until we harness and understand everything about this outbreak, we have seen several introductions and I suspect there are others we have not yet detected.

Considerate there and test if you have symptoms but for the practical value it maybe an advantage and I leave that for the communities and chiefs to consider.

>> I can answer part of the question from my perspective anyways.

We believe having that information creates more of an awareness in the community and people are more vigilant and they take the precaution seriously when they know it could be just down the street.

When we started this pandemic a year ago it was difficult and very stressful dealing with the situations in the community because we had no cases and people were not taking it seriously at all and it was stressful for us as leaders trying to shut down parties or get that message across, how dangerous this can be and trying to encourage people to get vaccinated.

It was very, very stressful.

Now that we people are aware it's in the community they are taking this seriously and I've seen it and striven around the community and I see there is nobody out and people are keeping in their bubbles and are taking the measure seriously.

You will have some people that don't in any community but you do what you can to urge them to take the precaution seriously.

>> And I think when we first start down the road of the policy of limiting the amount of information that doesn't help the health and safety, it was COVID was new and a case and the community we were worried about the ramifications and now, it was an abundance of caution to give that information to the leaders and let them decide.

We've seen a lot of the mayors and chiefs are sharing that information so we're saying do you want a centralized approach respecting the mayors is now live.

>> Pat: Do you have a second question.

>> Reporter: I do and thank you chief Bill.

My next question, I'd like to hear from Doctor Hanley and premier silver and chief Bill is free to weigh in but I think this falls on the premier.

That is not given since this current outbreak has begun, you have increased inspections and enforcement but you have said that there will be no new restrictions brought in or brought back in.

How much personal responsibility do you think you bear for the new cases we've had since the outbreak began in the cases we will continue to have.

>> I don't know about the personal responsibility part of the question.

Every single recommendation we've been put forward from the beginning of the pandemic, we don't make decisions politically, we may stem based upon the best information we have.

Doctor Hanley and his team are on national conversations, jurisdictional conversations and are sharing information about traceability and what measures we need to put in place to keep things safe.

I think he was eloquent and defining the balance between our mental health and the ramifications of an outbreak.

I believe we've approached it from a measured perspective and scientific perspective.

To be get everything right, we don't but I'd much rather follow the recommendations from the medical community than political expediency or bowing to pressure from those that are nervous or fearful and this will be the best approach, to follow the guidance and recommendations.

You are questioning if we bear any personal responsibility, when you take these positions of leadership you are always in a position where your decisions affect the outcomes.

That weighs on me heavily but I think our approach is sound and I think the team at the health department and YCDC and Chief Medical Officer of Health have given us amazing professional advice at every turn.

They don't sleep and they have been at it for months and I'm sure it weighs heavily on them when they make recommendations and implement the guidelines and even ECC folks, this weighs on everybody and I think everyone has a piece of personal responsibility.

>> Pat: Thanks premier silver.

Doctor Hanley?

>> How long do you want to be here for?

>> Pat: Not very long.

[Laughter]

>> I agree with everything the premier said and I think if one takes a position like this one needs to be willing to take a stand and make recommendations based on the best evidence we can muster and the best expertise we can put together.

In my position everything I do is for the well being of Yukoners.

And there is no risk free approach.

This is not risk on one side and no risk on the other side.

Look at the mental health consequences.

Look at suicide, addictions and how they have been aggravated.

Alcohol, alcohol injury, opioids and the increase in the opioid crisis.

It does way on me for sure.

And that is why striking the right balance based on the best evidence is so critical.

And our goal in this epidemic is to stand with those who are vulnerable and those who were unvaccinated and make sure we protect them.

And that is what we are doing.

And it's to use the fact that we have so many people who were unaffected to give us the power and the resources to concentrate on those that are more vulnerable.

We want to protect those who were unvaccinated by circulating this outbreak, and promoting vaccine so we can withstand this better.

But don't think there are not consequences to public health restrictions.

I think we all know there are serious consequences and our goal should always be the least intrusive measures we can put together to achieve the outcome of the people.

[Speaking French]

>> Andre: The question is for Premier Silver.

There was a number of advisories in terms of travelling to communities and many Yukoners want to explore the Yukon.

Is there a list that they can go to in communities or places where they will be welcome which will be available on the website of the Government of Yukon.

>> Thank you very much and thanks for the question.

As far as cancelled events we talked about the only event we cancelled for the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and we know the chief of another first nations have some requirements for travel and I urge you to get in touch

with his government if you want to know about those requirements and I want to do was shout out for someone who was stun and impeccable job of communicating with travellers.

A big shout out to Mabel who's been doing an amazing job, one of our elders but when we talk about as a government travelling respectfully it's all about the safe six and making sure as you travel weather for the great Yukon summer or for business or whatever reason you need to make sure you tread very lightly and you are very respectful, if there are checkpoints on the highway please stop and talk to these amazing folks.

It's all about making sure in each community, need to feel safe and if we feel more safe, and amines I connection between leadership, and have never seen them sew connected but when we talk will travelling respectfully it's based on what Doctor Hanley says on weekly called for the Chiefs and the mayors and our team.

It's about respecting the wishes of leadership and I urge people to make sure they reach out to the individuals and the leadership, chief and council if they have any concerns that they can garner off of our website.

>> Pat: Do have another question?

>> Reporter: I don't.

>> Pat: I'd like to thank everyone for their time today.

The next update is Wednesday June 30th at 10:30 AM.