

COVID-19 Facebook live update: December 22, 2020

>> Good morning.

I'm Pat Living with the
department of health and social
services and your moderator for
the COVID-19 update for Tuesday
December 22nd.

We are joined today by the Yukon
premier, the honourable Sandy
Silver and the Yukon's chief
medical officer of health
Dr. Brendan Hanley.

Our sign language interpreter
Mary Thiessen and Andre Bourcier
from French language services
directorates are also joining us
today.

Following our speakers, we will
go to the phone lines for
questions from reporters.

We will call you by name.

You will each have two
questions.

Before we begin with our
speakers I would like to verify
that everyone can hear us.

If any of the reporters are
having problems, please e-mail
ECOINFO@GOV.YK.ca.

Premier Silver.

>> Thank you very much, Pat.

Thank you very much for joining
us on the traditional territory
of the Ta'an Kwäch'än and the
Kwanlin Dün.

Pleased to be here with Mary and
with Dr. Hanley for our final
update of 2020.

Thanks for joining us.

It has been a long and

challenging year for everybody.
Before I begin, I would just
like to acknowledge what has
happened in the past week.
We're very deeply saddened to
hear about the tragic loss about
the long-term marsh lake
residents.

We are sending our condolences
and sympathies to their families
and friends and to the entire
community of marsh lake.

I also want to share my
condolences with our neighbours
in Nunavut who just recently
announced their first deaths
related to COVID-19.

Our thoughts go out to your
families and to your friends as
well.

Events in Nunavut have shown a
very stark way how serious this
situation and the virus is.

It can spread incredibly
quickly.

We are all vulnerable.

We remain in the grip of this
pandemic.

We cannot let our guard down.
Solstice has passed.

The days are once again growing
longer.

We can look towards a brighter
future.

With Christmas only days away, I
want it to once again remind
Yukoners about hosting guests
this holiday season.

Whether it's students returning
home from university or
grandparents who may otherwise
spend the season alone.

I know many of you want to share

a meal, share a hug with your guests.

Dr. Hanley and his team have provided guidance so that you can host your guests and share an intimate visit with them as long as you self-isolate with them.

This means following all of the regular self-isolation rules by staying home, only going outside alone or with people you are self-isolating with and not having others to visit.

If your guests leave before 14 days, your entire household will need to continue to self-isolate for three days following their departure and self-monitor for symptoms.

After three days, if no one in your household has symptoms and your departed guests do not have any symptoms either, you are free to leave your self-isolation.

Now, we have been getting questions.

Why only three days?

These guidelines are recommended by Dr. Hanley and have been developed based upon science. People with COVID-19 may be infectious for up to three days before they start exhibiting symptoms.

So if your guest leaves and develops symptoms within those three days, they could have been spreading COVID-19 to you and the rest of your household.

When this is the case, you and everyone in your household must

continue to self-isolate for the full 14 days from your guests' departure.

However, if your guest does not develop symptoms within three days of leaving, that means that they were not infectious while in Yukon.

You may carry on with your day to day life.

If you are hosting someone from out of the territory but do not want to self-isolate with your guest, well, then you must follow the self-isolation option two guidelines on Yukon.ca.

These include staying two metres or six feet or one caribou apart from anyone self-isolating in your household using a separate bathroom if possible, washing your hands often and cleaning household items regularly.

We are confident that these self-isolation options will allow Yukoners to connect with their loved ones for the holiday season while still keeping our communities safe from COVID-19.

>>> Even if you are not hosting guests over the holidays, I cannot stress enough the importance of practicing the safe six plus one.

I know you have heard me say this before.

I'm going to say it again and is continue to say it.

The best things that Yukoners can do to prevent the virus from spreading and to keep yourself safe is to practice the safe six, washing your hands,

maintaining physical distancing,
staying home if you're sick,
travelling responsibly and
respectfully and self-isolating
as required and following the
guidelines, the gathering
guidelines that are in place
limiting indoor gatherings to
ten people and, of course,
masking up when you're in
public.

I do want to thank everyone for
wearing masks this month.
I miss seeing people smiling.
We were watching people smiling
with their eyes nowadays.
It is great to see people
masking up to protect themselves
and their fellow Yukoners.
The safe six plus one are so
very important right now.
Vaccines are not coming yet.
But they're coming.
It's the gift that we can give
everybody over the holiday
season is to wear the masks.
We need to do our best to keep
the virus at bay while we wait
for the vaccines to be approved
and to be rolled out.
And again we are not out of the
woods yet.
Now is the time for us to dig
deep.
I know that the holidays will be
very difficult this year because
we are not gathering like we
normally do.
But the last thing we want to do
is to have a breakout of cases
in the coming weeks just as
vaccines start to arrive.
I'm asking all Yukoners again,

please, be very extra careful over the holidays.

And do your part like you have been for the last nine months to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I can't thank you all enough for all of your vigilance.

We're almost there, folks.

This includes practicing the safe six plus one checking in on friends and neighbours.

These continue to be very challenging times.

We need to take care of each other.

The efforts that you put in now will be more than worth it when we start rolling out the vaccine.

We are still waiting for the approval of the vaccine of Moderna by Health Canada.

We can anticipate that it will be approved this month.

We continue to plan the rollout of the vaccine guided by the vaccine strategy that we released on December the 10th.

We have been preparing for the delivery of the vaccine, which could be a mere 48 hours after approval.

We recently participated in a dry run of the vaccine delivery. Whitehorse was selected as one of five sites nationally to test the delivery system of the Moderna vaccine from Europe to its final destinations.

The intent of the dry run was to validate and confirm the shipping, the tracking, the

monitoring, warehousing, and onward movement of vaccine capabilities in order to deliver vaccines to remote areas in Canada.

It was also intended to confirm that the national operations centre established to coordinate the logistics and distribution of the vaccines in Canada was prepared for the ordering, tracking process as well specific to Moderna.

It also confirmed that the five selected sites were ready to receive Moderna vaccine shipments.

The test shipment left Europe on December 15th and arrived by air in Whitehorse on December 17th. It was then delivered under RCMP escort to our vaccine depot where it was found to be in good shape with no damage and that the cold chain of 20° below had been maintained.

The other locations for the dry run are Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Inuvik in Nunavut, high level in Alberta, and also Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

I want to thank everyone involved for this planning exercise.

We are well-prepared here in the territory to receive the vaccine when it becomes available.

If you have not seen it already, you can find the vaccine strategy on Yukon.ca as well as other information our government -- on our government's response to

COVID-19.

I want to end by saying Merry Christmas and happy holidays to you all.

I wish every single one of you the happiness of this season and the wonders of a year to come.

No pressure, 2021, but we're all looking forward to a better year.

I believe that we can all put a lot of hope into that.

I will end today before passing off to Dr. Hanley before saying what I have been saying, be kind to each other, be excellent to each other.

Have an excellent holiday season.

Here's to 2021.

Dr. Hanley.

>> Thank you, premier.

Here, here.

Good morning.

Bonjour.

For my update, I'm going to focus on a few points.

I'm going to again go over the holidays and what we should remember for the upcoming holidays.

I want to just advise of the hours for the Ctac and drive-through testing centres over the holidays.

And lastly, I want to mention an update regarding the vaccines.

After a few weeks of uncertainty, I'm happy to say that we have no active cases within Yukon.

Our last case, number 59, has been recovered as of today.

And we have officially gone a week without a new case and with no further evidence of community transmission.

I'm sure this is welcome news for all of us as we enter into the holidays.

Yesterday, as the premier said was another turning point as we turned the corner on solstice, the longest night of the year in a time where with morning darkness, the nights have seemed so long already.

The darkness can be hard for many of us, particularly when we're living in such a stressful moment.

But as of today, we can all welcome the return of the light. Light as a metaphor for our COVID journey is in all our conversations.

We have almost reached a year since COVID made its first appearance in North America nine months since it reached Yukon. And it's an important time to reflect for all of us.

With the vaccine rollout quickly approaching, there is a sense of hope and optimism that I feel has returned to the community. And although there are undoubtedly yet more twists and turns in this story, I do believe we are at the beginning of the end of a long journey. As the Moderna vaccine awaits its final signoff from Health Canada just last week as the premier detailed we had our first dry run of a vaccine

delivery.

That's another important preparatory step completed.

Our teams have been dedicating themselves to ensuring success with the vaccine strategy.

Each day we become more prepared for the arrival of vaccines in Yukon.

2021 will start off positively as vaccines arrive and as we continue preparations to get vaccines into the arms of as many people as possible.

These efforts will also bring light back into everyone's lives.

I want to take this time to remind you that all of our efforts have not been lost.

We are seeing another monumental moment in history unfold.

And after this is all said and done, I'm sure that Yukon will come out stronger than ever.

While I have said that 2021 should start off positively, I hope it will, on one condition that all Yukoners remember to stay safe over the holidays.

As everyone finalizes their holiday plans and finishes baking or decorating, deep emotions may be setting in.

The reality of our different Christmas is finally coming home to all of us whether it is not being able to welcome friends to our tables or not being able to see family members that we cherish, for some of us, this may be a first Christmas without children or without parents.

The holidays will be hard for many Yukoners this year. My heart goes out to all that have had to sacrifice plans and trips home to see their families.

I count myself very lucky that my family is here.

I'm incredibly grateful to have them with me during this time of year.

However, I know that many people, teachers, students studying out of territory, people separated from their families, parents, grandparents, children, extended family, healthcare workers, many others are unable either to travel out or receive family home perhaps for the first time.

I know many of you have had to make very difficult decisions leading up to the holidays.

One more sacrifice for the sake of all Yukoners.

I want to thank you all for keeping the interest of our Yukon communities in mind.

We have had to rally together this year.

With vaccines around the corner, we need to continue to hold out.

We must consider our neighbours, our elders, and our colleagues before making decisions that could easily affect the lives of those around us.

So for all of you who are going into the holiday season with drastically altered plans holding much smaller festivities than normal or celebrating with

your loved ones via zoom, I want to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts you are making. I also hope that during the holidays whether the time you get to take off is a few hours or a few days, please make the most of your time and take the opportunity for a break from COVID-19.

The constant cycle of COVID-19 news has been emotionally draining on all of us.

Disconnecting from COVID-19 and taking a step back from refreshing the case count every day can allow you to reset and truly enjoy a break over the holidays.

Whether COVID or other news and events, it feels we are being bombarded daily and the pace has been exhausting.

I do hope that each of you can take some time to disconnect.

Get outside for a walk.

Read that book that's been on your bedside table for months.

Reconnect virtually with friends in other areas or beginning watching a new movie or series.

Take some time that is for you and do something that will help you relax.

Enjoy this time as we all deserve a rest.

Of course, taking a break doesn't mean avoiding or foregoing any of the public health measures in place.

We still need to follow actively the safe six plus one to ensure that when we quietly ring in new

year we are able to move forward with confidence.

We could be smug about how well we're doing in Yukon.

Only three weeks ago we were perched on the edge of community spread and wondering how hard COVID might hit us.

Now the rest of the country and much of the world is currently struggling under the weight of rampant COVID spread.

We mourn with our friends in Nunavut for those who have died. Most of the country is now under some form of lockdown or restriction.

So let the lessons of our recent encounter with COVID linger on. We know that the transmission of COVID-19 thrives in indoor settings when any number of people gathering.

If we opt to disregard the guidelines and have a New Year's party or gather for a white elephant gift exchange, we could easily find ourselves back where we were or much worse.

It is so easy once we are out of trouble to be lulled into comfort, security and complacency.

We never know when COVID-19 will quickly enter back into our lives.

COVID could easily be here just waiting for any opportunity to spread.

The safe six plus one is in these times an integral part of our lives.

Let's review.

Perhaps for the last time this year.

Number one, keeping your distance.

If you see people who are not within your social bubble, always maintain that 6 feet apart.

Avoid large holiday gatherings and see Yukon.ca for further details on our updated holiday guidelines for gatherings.

Number two, keep your hands clean.

Wash your hands frequently.

Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not handy.

Three, if you're feeling sick, stay home.

Don't attend any holiday gatherings either outside or inside.

Don't go to work.

Stay home until you arrange for testing and your symptoms have resolved.

Remember to use the self-assessment for advice on testing.

Use the traffic light posters to guide you.

Number four, keep your social bubble small and consistent.

Remember, only ten people are allowed in an indoor space.

Don't change your social bubble over the holidays and check the new guidance on the website for keeping your bubbles faithful over the holiday period.

Number five, if you're travelling, do so respectfully.

This applies to travel to

communities within Yukon.
But it also applies to travel
outside Yukon should it be
necessary for you to do that.
Make sure you review whatever
restrictions are in place prior
to travelling to other parts of
Canada.

Number six, self-isolate when
necessary.

Again that's if you're ill.
Stay home and self-isolate.
If you have travelled, be
prepared upon your return to
self-isolate.

Remembering as the premier once
more detailed, we have two
options for self-isolation.
If you are hosting incoming
guests.

During the next few days there
will be some closures because of
the holidays of the CTAC and
drive-through.

And we anticipate that demand
for testing will likely be lower
over the days of Christmas and
Boxing Day.

In light of that, the COVID
testing assessment centre and
drive-through will be closed on
December 25th and 26th.

Both assessment centres will
reopen after that.

We're always ready to test when
necessary.

If you are having symptoms and
wish to be seen on either of
those days, please visit the
emergency room at the Whitehorse
general hospital.

Rural health centres will be
available as always for

emergency consultation if necessary.

Use the 8-1-1 or the self-assessment online to get testing advice ahead of time.

Please call first.

Our COVID info line will be on pause temporarily between the dates of December 25th and 29th.

Please keep in mind that our staff have been working tirelessly and are all in need of some time to rest and reset before heading into 2021.

Remembering in summary, if you can do your best to relax and rest and turn off for a while over the holidays, take a break especially from COVID.

Bubbles must stay small.

Visit the website for anymore advice on how to keep your bubble safe.

Avoid any indoor gatherings apart from your bubble.

Keep all outdoor gatherings safe.

Always remember the safe six plus one using your mask.

That's all for my update.

Thank you.

And remember to take care of each other and to stay well.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to everyone.

Thank you.

[Speaking Indigenous Language]

>> I would like to thank the premier and Dr. Hanley.

We will go now to the phone lines.

We will begin with Stephanie, the Yukon news?

>> Yes, you mentioned the dry run for the vaccine arrival.

I'm wondering if you can talk a little bit about what's being done in communities outside of Whitehorse to prepare.

>> So I can begin.

I don't know if you want to add as well Dr. Hanley.

With the dry run it was an exercise of getting a vaccine to Yukon.

As far as what we're doing to make sure that communities prepare as we get the vaccine delivered, we do have on Yukon.ca our vaccine distribution plan.

We have had minister frost and others talk about the teams that will be sent out into the rural communities to make sure that every community from old crow to Watson lake outside of Whitehorse has access to the vaccine.

Also we talked about the preparation for our one-stop shop here in Whitehorse.

All the details on how we distribute the vaccine once it gets delivered is available on that vaccine distribution plan on Yukon.ca.

>> Thanks.

I will echo the premier's comments and also say that there will be more details to come once we're into the new year in terms of exactly how that rollout will happen.

Again, one of the advantages of the Moderna vaccine, unlike the

Pfizer vaccine, is that it allows us to have a centralized depot once we get the Moderna vaccine at Whitehorse, which is the much -- for us the much preferable model so that the shipment for Yukon will come into Whitehorse and be stored in the centralized location.

Then the distribution will be with the mobile teams out to the communities.

Moderna really lends itself to that model.

In terms of community preparation, on the one side, definitely it's preparing that our teams and that's going over the logistics having all the supplies in place that people, the training, all of those measures over the next few weeks are in that preparation phase.

And on the community side, we will be working with communities as a whole and as one by one to prepare communities if the people for the arrival of those mobile teams.

Once for the first dose and again for the second dose. So it's critical that when the teams are there in the communities that we're ready on the provider side and that the communities and the people are ready to go to receive the vaccine in those hours or days that the mobile teams are there.

>> Thank you.

Stephanie, do you have a follow-up?

>> I don't.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

We will move to Luke from CKRW.

>> No questions from me.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> To Phillippe from CBC Yukon.

>> Yes, thank you.

I wonder will there be any kind of perhaps sticker or bracelet or public show that people received a vaccine and is that useful?

>> It's a really good question.

It's a question again that we're considering at a national level as well as individually.

There will likely be some kind of documentation.

We're working out what the potential role of that will be.

Of course, with anything, there are opportunities for misuse of the documentation.

Really our primary goal is to get the population immunized.

As many people in the population immunized as possible within a reasonable period of time is our goal to achieve that goal of population immunity.

That really is the goal.

In terms of what -- how that applies to the individual in terms of certification, it's I would say at this point where we're looking at those options and any policy around that that might be useful.

It's a really good question.

We just don't have all the answers yet.

>> Phillippe, do you have a

follow-up question.

>> Yes, I do, thank you.

How does it affect things that children are not covered by this vaccine?

Do we have any sense that a timeline on testing for children, how that would happen, how does that affect the total coverage of the vaccine, children are not covered?

>> Yeah, again it's -- we're going to -- as we get further along, we will understand more about the applicability of the vaccine products for children. With some of the further iterations of the phase three trials, they will start to include children.

Already there is planning for going down to age 12.

I think that's for the Pfizer product.

It's for one of the two anyway.

There are sort of expanded -- there is expanded planning for -- to include younger people in ongoing clinical trials.

Of course, children are frankly not the priority right now.

So the priority is the adult population because that is where we're seeing disease transmission.

That's where we're seeing serious disease.

Even globally, really, the overwhelming priority is to protect our adult populations.

Of course, it's not to say we're forgetting about our children. It's just that we have got time

to work that out.

If we were in a scenario of, say, adult population immunity and we had not yet had vaccine available for children, we would be in a really good position. And then we would be working out, you know, there are all kinds of protocols to work out in terms of how did the public measures still apply when you have an immunized population and included within that will be how do we treat and test children. We will be in a situation where the transmission potential within the community should be far, far lower.

>> Thank you.

We'll move now to Tim from Whitehorse star.

>> Yes, good morning, thank you.

My question is for Dr. Hanley and for the premier for that matter.

Considering we have gone a week without cases.

There are no active cases.

Are we at a point you could almost functionally say that COVID is totally eliminated in the territory again?

>> Well, I will start with that.

>> You start, yeah.

>> I would never go that far.

I'm hoping that we get to the point where we can say that.

I would not be surprised if there are cases within Yukon that we have for one reason or another have not recognized.

And I think that's the assumption we always need to be

working under.

So again, if there are cases within Yukon, the important thing is that ideally that we know about them through testing but more importantly is that we prevent onward transmission. Really the goal is again individual cases don't worry me a lot.

It's when cases are in settings where you can have transmission which can turn a case into a cluster, a cluster into an outbreak, an outbreak into community spread.

These are the things that I do not like to see.

No, I think it would be premature to say that we have eliminated.

That is an ultimate goal.

What I can say with confidence is that we continue in containment mode and that we have no evidence of community transmission of COVID.

>> Premier silver.

>> Yeah.

I would just add that the amount of cases currently in Yukon is just one variable of many variables that we have to maintain vigilance on.

You know, there's two other things moving forward.

One is the travel of folks over the holidays.

You know, that, we saw in the states and in Canada after Thanksgiving, you know, spikes in cases in the past.

That's something that we're

monitoring.

Also, you know, once we start getting vaccines into arms, what will be the public's participation but also, you know, attitudes towards where we are in COVID.

One of the biggest things you're hearing nationally and internationally from the medical community is a real concern that the first few vaccines happen and people go we're done with this and we can turn the page.

That's just not so.

Those are other variables that we have to consider as well when we take consideration of time and place, COVID, Yukon, and where we are in our phases moving back to normal.

>> Thank you.

Tim, do you have a follow-up?

>> Yes, I do.

It's a related question.

Just playing devil's advocate here, at what point could we say that COVID is eradicated here in the territory?

What evidence would you need?

>> I will go to Dr. Hanley for that recommendation.

>> I actually don't think we will -- I mean, based on what we know so far about COVID, I don't think we will realistically ever eradicate COVID-19 from the territory.

I think what will happen if we have a successful immunization both in Yukon and around the country and around the world is that it will become an endemic.

It will go from pandemic to epidemic to endemic.

What endemic means is it's still around but at kind of a low lying level and might, might, depending on mutations, depending on evolving population susceptibility based on the vaccine success long-term, it may be something that continues to hit us in waves.

It may be something that becomes kind of like another influenza, a seasonal virus.

Clearly this virus is worse or has more capacity to affect us in winter seasons.

So I think it will turn into kind of a seasonal virus likely.

And I doubt very much that we will eradicate this disease.

The only proviso is that it came out of nowhere.

We have seen with coronavirus basically with the SARS-1 that it basically did disappear.

This is a very different virus in terms of its transmissibility.

More realistic is that it will turn into an endemic disease.

>> Thank you.

We will move now to claudiAnne Radio-Canada.

[Speaking in French,
No Interpretation]

>> Could you please repeat in French how the dry run for the delivery of the vaccine happened in the Yukon and how it will be done with rural communities?

[Speaking in French,
No Interpretation]

>> Thank you.

[Speaking in French,
No Interpretation]

>> So there will be -- will
there be a dry run also for the
communities to know if the
delivery can be done properly
for each of these communities?

[Speaking in French,
No Interpretation]

>> Please, premier silver.

>> We did a tabletop exercise
early on as well this year to
make sure that the distribution
as we're designing the plan was
well-modelled from the flu
vaccine but at the same time
took into consideration the
increased volumes of the Moderna
vaccine that will be
distributed.

That tabletop exercise was our
dry run in a lot of ways making
sure that we had all of the
logistics figured out.

We are determining key
populations for initial
immunizations which will include
the high risk and
immunocompromised Yukoners,
elders, healthcare professionals
and elders living in rural
communities and we're
well-poised and ready for that
distribution.

>> Thank you.

I would like to thank everyone
for their time today.

There will be no COVID update
next week.

Our next COVID-19 update will
take place the first week in
January 2021.

Premier silver and Dr. Hanley have some final words to say.

>> Thank you, pat.

Yes, I have two things.

One, it's important as I said that we take a little time to celebrate the season even for our leaders.

As you know the premier and I worked closely over the last few months with me mostly providing the advice and with him making many of the tough decisions based on that advice.

Now, mask wearing is not only the norm.

It's clear that masks are rapidly becoming a fashion accessory or a vehicle for demonstrating a cause.

In the spirit of Christmas -- uh oh, I'm offering the premier a more festive mask.

Now, the premier has a choice. I think most would agree that he is a kind and generous person like Santa and has had occasion in the midst of restrictions to be able to offer benefits and compensations to Yukoners.

On the other hand, like a Christmas elf, the premier has been hard at work every day serving the people in the time of need.

Premier, you choose one.

I will gladly choose the other as we take our leave.

>> I tell you, okay.

Thank you for the gift,
Dr. Hanley.

I have been getting lots of compliments on my mask.

I guess it's not an option to
keep my mask.

I will ask Adam.

Which one do I wear?

>> The elf.

>> The elf?

Thanks, Adam.

I thought we were friends.

>> There may be a little role
reversal going on here.

But we also have an additional
feature.

And I have been criticized for
being too poetic at times with
my words.

With no apology whatsoever, I
bring you a poem for the season.

And I have asked the premier to
read this with me.

Now this poem is an adaptation
not only from the original poem
the night before Christmas by
Clement Clark Moore published in
1823 but is adapted from another
adaptation, a woman from
Manitoba with deep family
connections to Yukon wrote this
as a tribute to her own mother's
tireless history of writing
poetic Christmas letters but
also to the values that we can
be learning from this COVID
experience.

With gratitude therefore to Anne
Thompson from Manitoba and with
a few tweaks to get this more of
a Yukon feel, here we go.

I will begin with the first
verse.

We will alternate.

>> Twas just days before
Christmas and all through the
town, the people wore masks to

cover their frown.

The virus stood still just for
the time being.

There was no foreseeing what
Corona would be bringing.

Theres no reason to be merry.

The borders were closed.

Visits to family are strictly
opposed.

But how can we celebrate
Christmas they said, no parties,
no carols, no more than ten
friends.

Is there even a reason to
decorate, to put up a tree or to
get out of bed?

>> Yet others cried out with a
similar force, I really don't
see a need to change course.

I will keep on my way and plan
my celebrations with friends
aplenty I will enjoy my
libations.

The public health workers isn't
have much to say.

They were busy throughout night
and day.

They toiled long hours behind
gowns and masks while others
rejoiced they carried on with
their tasks.

>> All over Yukon, people
thought long and hard, what
really made Christmas, what set
it apart.

Could COVID end Christmas, would
tradition be broken.

Because there more to this
season than bobbles and tokens?

>> They realized they had a rare
chance to reset the clock,
reconsider their stance.

It was time to explore different

options and choices of
respecting tradition while
hearing new voices.

They grew closer together,
played games in the snow, made
popcorn, short bread, meals by
candle glow.

Shared stories and memories
recalled Christmases past,
reminded each other of values
that last.

Not all hope was lost.

End was in sight.

They knew this Christmas may be
different but that was all
right.

They avoid temptations of excess
and greed, shopped local, mailed
presents, gathered under the
tree.

They reached out to others in
less fortunate states.

They made sure they were warm
and had food on their plate.

They were thankful for mute as
they carolled on zoom, joined
virtual worship in their own
living room.

>> They found as they searched
for a safe way to be that what
actually mattered was completely
set free.

Family, connection, reaching out
and compassion can be
re-imagined, adapted,
refashioned.

For love finds a way no matter
the plight.

Light a candle in darkness.

Help spread the light.

Thank you.

>> Thank you, Mr. Premier for
being a sport.

>> Merry Christmas and happy
holidays to you and to Mary.
>> Same to you all.

