

COVID-19 Facebook live update: July 21, 2021

>> Pat: I'm Pat Living with the Department of Health and Social Services and I'm your moderator for the COVID-19 update for Wednesday July 21st.

We are joined by Minister of Community Services Richard Mostyn and Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Catherine Elliott.

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

After the speaker we will go to the phone lines for questions and reporters in the room and will call you by name and you will have two questions.

Minister Mostyn?

>> Thanks for joining us on additional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Taa'an Kwächän Council.

It's great to be here with Doctor Catherine Elliott the acting Chief Medical Officer of Health.

I'm going to talk about vaccinations.

We have one of the highest vaccination rates in Canada, in North America, in the world.

What Yukoners achieved this year is quite simply incredible.

Despite having about as many people as Campbell River BC, despite being spread across an area the size of France, with some of the most formidable to rain and hard climate, Yukoners plan and

delivered a world leading vaccination program.

The high vaccination rate makes the Yukon one of the safest jurisdictions in Canada and it makes Canada and Yukon one of the most safe places in the world.

It's something we should celebrate because most 80% of us who have chosen to be vaccinated, for almost 80% of us to have chosen to be vaccinated the Yukon is the safest place on the planet and for those who have chosen not to be vaccinated there is payroll, sure, but also enough vaccine for everyone.

We are turning the corner on the COVID-19 wave.

Our active case count continues to drop.

We have seen fewer than ten cases per day and have 60 active cases and as folks get better that number strictly -- shrinks.

We have seen 30 people infected with COVID every day and now -- we had more than 100 active cases so the trend we are seeing is encouraging.

This did not happen on its own.

It has been through a lot of hard work and sacrifice from civil servants across government and from Yukoners.

I want to thank the rapid response teams who travelled to roll Yukon and work so hard alongside community partners.

I also want to thank people who God tested because they were in close contact with someone who was tested or they experienced symptoms themselves.

All that testing has cut the number of vaccinated Yukoners getting sick and because so many unvaccinated Yukon serves -- Yukoners have become ill we have seen people overcome their reluctance to get the job.

79% of adult Yukoners are fully vaccinated, more than most everywhere else in North America and our youth aged 12 to 17 were catching up to be adults, in just six weeks 59 percent have received what what doses.

This is absolutely phenomenal.

An overwhelming majority of citizens are vaccinated.

The minority who aren't can easily get vaccinated and and the nagging worry of catching a horrible and potentially fatal illness.

The vaccine is safe and it will prevent you from getting seriously ill through COVID.

And not just do you, every single person who steps up to take their shot is protecting their family and friends and neighbours.

I have a constituent, Karen he was fragile and cannot be vaccinated and she wants the shot but cannot get it and she's exposed and endanger.

I thought about Karen when I got my shots.

I'm fully vaccinated and I have no fear of disclosing that personal information.

My protections shots done of active infection which protects us woman and the few others in society who cannot accept as wonder of modern science.

Take the job.

Take it for Karen and others like her who truly cannot take this wondrous medicine.

The Whitehorse clinic is open Tuesday to Friday for those 12 and up, Watson Lake's health Centre is open Friday and next Friday, Dawson city having the next next week at the committee Health centre.

You can find information a book an appointment Yukon.ca.

If, for some reason, you are nervous, talk to your doctor or community nurse.

Or talk to someone who is vaccinated, eight out of ten people already have the vaccine.

We have enough vaccine for everyone and are fortunate to be in that position.

And there are many places that don't have the luxury.

This medicine is safe and works and is your ticket out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

What are the variants we keep hearing about?

The evidence suggests that with both doses and place them at -- Pfizer and Moderna vaccine were wild against the variants of concern.

Doctor Elliott and Doctor Hanley and their team are confident the risk of importation is now low.

That low risk combined with high vaccination rates, our global leading high vaccination rates of prompted new recommendations Doctor Elliott will speak to in a moment but today I'm happy to

announce we are forever easing restrictions under the civil emergencies act.

As of August fourth in just two weeks the requirement for individuals to self isolate upon entry will be lifted.

The requirement to wear masks and indoor public spaces will be lifted.

And physical distancing for stand up and counter service at bars and restaurants will be lifted, bars and restaurants can return to full capacity as they were before the pandemic.

Limits on social gatherings will remain for the time being as this continues to be where we see spread.

It's important to continue practising safe 6.

Will monitor this situation and watch for cases counts to decrease.

As the premier mentioned last week at these trends continue we will be in a position to lift the state of emergency next month.

That will made all the remaining restrictions introduced under the civil emergencies measure act will be lifted and we can begin to move on from this life-changing pandemic.

Agent everyone of us has a rules of play and getting us there.

We have done it for 17 months.

We need to get vaccinated and followed a safe six which is what we are urging Yukoners to do.

As we move out of the civil emergencies measures act in to a

more normal society restoring the freedoms that Canadians hold dear we need to take a measure of personal responsibility, if you want to get vaccinated get vaccinated and if you choose not to use still have control over your life and you can choose where you go or who you associate with and where.

Personal responsibility will shift to individuals.

We are all in this together and we will get through this together.

Thank you very much, I'm going to turn the mic over to Doctor Catherine Elliott.

Thank you.

>> Thank you Minister Mostyn.

I am speaking from additional territory at the Kwanlin Dün first nation and Taa'an Kwächän Council and my will with Doctor Hanley is to serve all people in Yukon.

It's my pleasure to speak with you.

Doctor Hanley has asked me to be here in his absence as we work closely together and continue to do so in each phase and at each bend.

I will be happy to update on the current a situation and along with updates on the path we are on and have been on since early June some good news about next steps.

Today we are pleased to share we see a steady decline in the number of people affected by COVID-19 in Yukon.

Our daily case number has declined since early June and has stabilized around three to eight diagnoses each day.

Our active case count is continuing to drop to a much more manageable level.

Since noon of yesterday we've had seven new cases, six and people who were not vaccinated.

Locations were not yet confirmed.

As of yesterday at noon we've had 458 cases confirmed along with eight probable cases since the beginning of June representing 556 people in Whitehorse and 94 and world communities as well as six nonYukoners who were diagnosed here.

These cases are either B.1.617 as known -- known as alpha or P1 known as the Gamma variant.

We have not seen Delta or Lambda variant which are circulating elsewhere in Canada.

Senses outbreak began 42 people have been hospitalized and eight are in Yukon hospitals.

13 aren't hospitals out of territory.

-- RN.

Those in Yukon have sacrificed much working together tirelessly to keep ourselves and communities safe and we have done a job that is the envy of the country as Minister Mostyn spoke to.

Even when we consider the recent outbreak we are in a very good position.

We have made tremendous strides and we are entering a phase where we can ease some of our current measures.

After so many months and especially after the past six weeks we are starting to feel a sense of calm as the daily case count drops from significant ties and some of the ongoing transmission has simmered down.

We can keep our lives on pause and as we continue to learn the ways of how COVID-19 targets and infects people we need to transition to a time of living with COVID-19.

We have seen that although vaccination romance our best efforts and our best defence the virus will find a way to work it's way into our lives and I feel there's been some challenging but useful learnings along the path.

As we have said COVID-19 will not be leaving us anytime soon and we must adjust and accept our lives maybe impacted for months and for years to come.

We need to consider the implications if we don't make an active effort to move forward.

Our goal is supporting and protecting the health and well-being of all people in Yukon including returning to a fuller life while living safely.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 with a watchful eye us knew variants of interest and concern appear on the radar and we will target our public health system on COVID-19.

I know and understand opening up may cause concern for those who want to shut down.

Really we shouldn't and we need to learn to rejoin a world where COVID exists and we must live wisely.

When we and those entrusted with bank recommendations as we have done this week please know we have done our background work to know what we are recommending is best for the health and well-being of Yukoners.

We have completed modelling here in territory locally and have reviewed the modelling that has been done nationally.

We stay in close contact with our colleagues around the world and with those who are closest to us in British Columbia and Alberta and the northern territories.

We have collaborated and learned and continue to watch and learn.

As we work hard to keep precautions in place and we begin the transitional period, and we take these effective precautions, we've taken the time to assess and evaluate the key data and information that offer some explanation to what transpired.

It is clear vaccination provides a strong barrier against the virus.

When we evaluate the case data for those who contracted COVID-19 we've been able to ascertain it was unvaccinated and not fully vaccinated individuals who are getting sick.

Those who are vaccinated and received COVID had a good immunity but had prolonged exposure.

Meaning they were more likely household contacts or family members of an unvaccinated person but with our high vaccination rate I can tell you this outbreak would have been much more devastating had we not been leading the country and vaccination rates.

For those who are unvaccinated we have seen the virus work its way through the vulnerable populations, those who were gathering and -- and an unorganized fashion.

If you are unvaccinated you must recognize your risk remains even if you have the virus in the past, it's possible you can be infected by some of the variants of concern.

Perhaps its weeks or months or years but having COVID-19 in the past is not the same as being fully vaccinated.

We now know we have a high number of people who are at risk and if we continue to see vaccination rates increase we can continue to strengthen our barrier a protection through the months to come.

As Minister Mostyn announced the government has accepted a recommendation from the office of the chief medical health officer and effective August 4th life will become fuller and healthier with the removal of requirement for masking and indoor public spaces no longer need for people to self isolate when they enter Yukon from the rest of Canada regardless of their vaccination status and bars and restaurants will return to their full capacity.

We've carefully and thoughtfully consider these recommendations assessing how we can ensure their risk is properly mitigated as we lift some risk.

For many months and over more than a year we have a raptus blanket of protection around Yukon at the border.

This blanket is a self-isolation measures for travellers coming in whether Yukoners are those from away in a reduction in self-isolation measures for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals will mark a shifting in this blanket of protection toward those who are most at risk.

I feel confident with this recommendation as we've accounted for all the jurisdiction current case activity and determined the risk of COVID-19 coming in the territory at a rapid rate is unlikely.

Provinces and territories are experiencing low case activity and high vaccination rates.

Our importation risk is significantly decreasing.

Our modelling shows our importation risk is the lowest it's been in a number of months.

Our data shows the majority of incoming persons by air or by land are returning Yukoners and we expect that may change in the coming weeks and months.

We continue to encourage testing and liked Minister Mostyn I'm grateful for those who have come forward and been tested and we encourage people to continue to self monitor and we hope people will have the common sense to not go out and socialize but instead to do the right thing by physically isolating from others.

The second reduction is the easing of masking, and all it -- in all indoor spaces.

It will no longer be required at indoor public spaces including but not limited to indoor gatherings restaurants and bars, James and recreational centres.

Unless an establishment requests that people wear their masks it will not be required in the way it has in the past under Cima.

Although this removal is exciting news for some I strongly recommend we continue to take those steps to be wise and careful, I don't suggest throwing away your mask anytime soon.

It will remain valuable for quite some time such as when the flu season arrives or you were in a setting where other people are vulnerable to severe disease.

If you were in close proximity for a long time of a person who is not vaccinated your risk of transmitting or contracting might be heightened.

You may feel it's appropriate to wear a mask and so maybe other person.

We need to respect these choices.

Or during flu season it be great to have a mask on hand when there's a higher rate of influenza infection and illness.

Keep in mind if you are vaccinated you have a high degree of protection from the circulating variants.

Still, there maybe wisdom and wearing a mask, you might wear it when you are around people who are risk of severe illness and we will choose these things to keep each other safe.

Please follow the guidance you were given.

The change in restrictions will mean more choice and with that choice comes the responsibility to take care of each other.

As we remove the blanket from the perimeter we each have their responsibility to wrap that blanket around each other and around ourselves.

The last shift in measures applies to bars and restaurants, alongside the other restrictions bars and restaurants will be permitted to return to full capacity meaning physical distancing

measures will not be required between tables or at the countertop, spacing between tables will not be required in the same way it has been an staff and gas can move freely between tables.

This is a place where we need to be responsible and use our own blankets to care for each other.

We still want to keep our contacts amongst the close people we know and we should not be sitting at -- at tables with people who are not within our close contacts or friends.

We also don't want to gather in large groups in a communal indoor area.

Still avoid those closed spaces and stay with those familiar faces.

Although we saw some transmission and a select number of establishments, we are not -- bars and restaurants were not the primary cause of transmission.

Most of them have closely followed the guidance and measures and others have responded quickly if asked them to and have kept those practices save.

We have seen limited transmission and can say these powers will be low risk returning to full capacity.

Although after a number of transmission advance and the surgeon cases we've had this news may come unexpected that we are in stable condition.

And we continue to move ahead as we adjust to living with COVID-19.

We will need to keep and I on this disease for years to come.

And we will keep testing for COVID-19 when symptoms occur.

We will maintain strong surveillance and epidemiology to detect new cases and outbreaks.

We will continue to collaborate with our partners within Yukon and across Canada.

And our transition to living with COVID-19 is in its early phases and it will progress over the weeks and months to come.

Information regarding these changes will be updated on Yukon.ca and as the Minister Mostyn has said these changes will not go into effect immediately so please follow the current guidance until August 4th.

These changes will not be in effect until August 4th so please do be patient.

Immunization is the thickest strongest coziest and most protective blanket and is the foundation to our approach.

As of July 1979% of Yukoners over 18 are fully vaccinated with what what doses which continues to climb and we promote uptick in vaccine.

And we will have more to say and I must say I am happy to say our young people are leading the nation continuing to step up with 59 percent of young people fully vaccinated.

What our road ahead looks like will be determined by the number of people who receive the vaccination so if you've not yet received it please do consider it.

I can promise you this COVID-19 will take any opportunity provided to in fact many Yukoners.

It does so all these year if you are unvaccinated.

The case counts have stabilized but the risk is not entirely disappeared.

I also want to let you remember we have the tools to live a safe and healthy life with COVID-19.

We have there was possibility to route the blanket of safety around ourselves and loved ones and around others including not only those we know well but those we don't yet know.]

As we remove the blanket of protection we will need to remain close knit and carrying and use the tools we have to wrap that blanket of safety health and well-being around each and every one of us.

Thank you.

I'm happy to take your questions.

>> Pat: Thank you both Minister Mostyn and Doctor Elliott.

Let's start with John from CK RW.

>> Doctor Elliott, will people who attend restaurants and bars need to be physically distant during activities say dancing at bars that have live music and such.

Without be allowed once August 4th comes around?

>> The question was around physical distancing when dancing and having live music.

The specific recommendations for each type of setting and activity will come out over the next two weeks.

The physical measures have to do with people sitting at tables and at the bar so please do watch Yukon.ca for those pieces.

>> Pat: Next question?

>> Reporter: I do but I'm not sure that I will get an answer.

This plays in to restaurants.

Servers and staff, with any to wear masks a numbing schedule really specific information but those encounter hundreds of Yukoners but I'm wondering if that is in the consideration of wearing a mask.

>> We recommend -- I can appreciate you want to know the details of every piece but it's important we allow the team to assess in general, masks will not be required in indoor public spaces.

Individuals and businesses may take different means or measures of the Quat -- requirement is removed.

They will have very low risk of transmission and thus that's super putrid.

>> Pat: Haley from YUKON news.

>> Reporter: This is for either review, on not sure who best but we have some news about reporter reopening.

And the need to have a test in advance.

We'll be Yukon government look to asymptomatic testing or nonessential testing being offered.

>> All right, I will take the first crack at its.

Within the territory itself we are removing any need to self isolate.

If you travel within Canada and if you are vaccinated or not you can come and go.

I know the Canadian government is -- has just removed -- they will unvaccinated Americans into the country but America has not reciprocated.

Canadians or Canada will allow Americans and if vaccinated but Canada won't -- the states will not allow Canadians into their borders.

As far as the agent emetic testing goes we will need to look at the federal borders, under the care and control of the federal government so we will need to see what rules they bring into place and I will turn over if Doctor Elliott has any other options, I will defer to her on the medical side.

>> The announcement about the August 9th border changes is to do with the federal borders so testing is not something we control.

The control is federal.

But we do look at testing with relation to our borders and with their risk where it is that for importation from the rest of the country testing is not necessary at our borders.

>> Pat: You have a follow-up.

>> Reporter: When the civil emergency measures act is repealed, I'm wondering if that means there's any controls on requiring people who are positive to self isolate?

Do we have any way of asking requiring people to self isolate?

>> Thank you Haley.

The civil emergency measures act is the tool through which the Yukon government has been able to impose some of these incredible restraints on Canadian society and we have not undertaken any of those measures lightly.

It is essential and we've said from the very outset this was a temporary measure and we will remove the act and the vaccines that we've had Yukoners take, we have such a good vaccination rate and we are at the stage we can withdraw the civil emergency measures act and it will be up to people to take personal responsibility for their health as they had prior to the pandemic.

And there is some concern about these changes and the removal of the state of emergency but as leaders we can encourage people to do the right thing and I believe that's the message Doctor Elliott has been giving.

We want to make sure people take personal responsibility.

It doesn't mean people should not wear masks, they can take that personal responsibility around the world.

And we encourage Yukoners to do that.

Just because we say you can't gather in groups larger than six, does Amanda say people can't still limit their social exposures so they can still do those things but it won't be enforced by the government and it's on personal recognition and your own sense of safety and sense of responsibility to yourself so I guess that's -- there's a lot to that answer but the bottom line is we are looking at legislation in the territory to see how it can be strengthened but when the act comes off if people are ill it's up to them and through public health like when you were sick before

two wins -- stay home and not go to work and expose other people to the illness whether it's the flu or tuberculosis or in this case COVID.

If you are sick get tested, you don't want to put others at risk.

They will be people who don't take that responsibility and act out and it's up to society to force corrections and behaviour.

>> Pat: Thank you.

>> To build on that with the lifting of the civil emergencies measures act and the civil emergency we will no longer have the tool to remove -- place restrictions on people in the same way we have in general but the medical officers of health have another tool called a public health and safety act and under that act there are certain pieces we can enforce such as COVID and tuberculosis and the first piece, there is different steps to that and the first step is education.

The first piece is around educating society at large and individuals who are infected in the best way to keep themselves and others safe.

If people still struggle we look at supports.

How do we support people to prevent transmission or harm from their infection.

If the supports and education do not work and this happens rarely we move towards the demonstration that we can enforce certain restrictions of rights to keep society safe and we have enforce those in the past.

And we will continue to when we get to that small number of people who require that tool.

We do have methods in place to do that.

And we have that continue.

To ensure people who are infected with portable communicable diseases do not cause widespread transmission.

>> Pat: We will now move to the phone lines.

Canadian press.

>> Reporter: Can you tell me why is it you are still enforcing restrictions on people gathered outside while those in bars and restaurants is full capacity.

Why is that different and how are you going to enforce that kind of a thing?

>> Do you want to take it?

>> AI start.

Beer at a time where we need to focus and target efforts on where we see transmission occurring from person to person and we see this occurring in unorganized gatherings and where -- with large to organize gatherings, if the plans are not followed and the rules are not followed we will see spread to a potentially large number of people.

While we do have case count numbers and contact numbers, if we had a very large gathering with the widespread transmission this has potential to push our system to capacity and that's important that we do everything we cannot to get to that point.

We have worked with people who are organizing gatherings to support them to keep these gatherings safe and this is the place

where transmission can occur and this is why this is one of the restrictions we are recommending we hold onto.

While we are able to lift those restrictions in places and ways we don't see transmission.

We are not seeing transmission, the plans are being closely adhered to and people are doing the right thing.

And we recommend the capacity is the way to go.

>> I will pick up on that.

In this last wave we insured for the last six weeks or so it has been unorganized social gatherings that has driven this infection among unvaccinated Yukoners.

Those are not controlled areas.

There's alcohol and people are not following safe six and are not wearing masks and they are engaging in dangerous behaviour.

When it comes to bars and restaurants those are controlled areas and they have lists of people who were attending their establishment, we are not seeing an awful lot of outbreaks.

It's been through home parties that have gotten out of hand and people have let their guard down and so that's where a lot of the transmission has happened and we want to keep the control on those gatherings for a few more weeks and we're going to gauge behaviour and outcomes how the pandemic -- how the wave goes.

While we contemplate new measures, the lifting of the state of emergency while it is safe six we have the ability to follow-up and

take action on people who do not follow the rules we put in place.

We will have enforcement capabilities until the state of emergency is lifted.

>> Pat: Do you have a second question?

>> Reporter: I do.

You talked about Yukon having the highest vaccination rate in the world.

How do you calculate those numbers?

And thank you for this.

>> I thank you for the question, it's among the highest, I think we've accomplished amazing things for a very small jurisdiction spread over a very large area.

It has been our Yukon nurses and health officials, people from across do you called Glover Road who have participated in the depths of winter two very far-flung communities and encouraged and health clinics taking time away from their families to make sure this vaccine rollout happened.

It is an extraordinary story that happened most of it over the winter.

At the tail end of the pandemic when everyone was exhausted.

They rallied and stepped up to deal with the worst outbreak we've seen throughout this pandemic and it happened when everyone was really starting to hope for the best and they got hit with this new wave.

An incredible effort on the parts of civil servants throughout the government who stepped up and Yukoners who stepped forward and got vaccinated.

The numbers are 79% of our adult population have double dose.

And those numbers are climbing.

Amongst our youth it's 59% and looking around the country, you look at North America, those numbers are high and are higher than most other jurisdictions and if you go to nations of the world and look at their vaccination rates and admittedly I'm comparing a small province to nations but those vaccination rates I've cited rank among the highest in the world's and I think when I look at what we accomplished for such a small jurisdiction under formidable geography that is widely dispersed what we accomplished is amazing and should be chronicled.

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

>> Reporter: Hello.

Can you hear me.

>> Pat: Yes, we can.

>> My first question is to either the minister or Doctor Elliott, with such a rapid change of restrictions, do you have any plans on hoping people who might find this a bit overwhelming or even traumatic to deal with those changes, is there going to be services and educational campaigns.

Is that something you considered?

>> I will start.

You are seeing it right now, we got this recommendation late Monday afternoon.

Cabinet held a meeting to assess the recommendations coming out of Chief Medical Officer of Health and we gathered and we talked about the implications of this.

About two weeks time delayed to the 4th of August allows us to assess how the pandemic is going over the next few weeks and also to reach out to our partners and explain what's happening.

We how this meeting now to communicate those decisions made in the last 24 hours and we've met with leaders across the territory, more than 40 people to explain what was happening and to hear their questions so as far as citizens of this territory they are hearing this for the first time and they will be able to reach out to any of their amyase, to health authorities and it's one we are seeing throughout the world as a vaccination rates across the country none of which kind very fewest which are as high as ours, as these jurisdiction look at what's happening and assess the freedoms of their citizens they are pulling these safety measures that have been put in place for 17 months away and allowing people to begin to live their lives and take personal responsibility for their health and we are able to do that simply because we have vaccines.

It's amazing medicine and it has -- they've been tested in hundreds of millions if not billions of arms and they are safe and they work when you get to watch what doses, they render you much better protected against us virus.

And without protection and always learned about this fire is with the safe six we feel society is ready to handle this next stage and I

would believe a majority of Yukoners, support that.

>> If I may build upon that, for those important comments I want to be clear on this one.

The change and easing of these restrictions is something that Dr Hanley anti- and the team we've worked with feel confident is in the best interest in the health and safety of all people.

This is not a recommendation to party.

Some types of partying has contributed significantly to the case counts we have seen.

This is a call to responsibility and to -- and for each of us to use the tools we have too rapid a blanket of safety around each person in a group who need extra support whose at risk for various reasons including people who are not vaccinated.

To work together and care for all people.

There are a lot of people who are very used to the restrictions and living in a society with considerable restrictions.

Many of us have had to become used to this in a way that's different than we did before the pandemic touched our shores.

I think there will be a cognitive shift and there will be some people who feel more frightened or afraid and I urge you to reach out to your friends and family and talk to your healthcare providers, to call the health alliance and to reach out for the supports that do exist.

There are other people who are ready to take that call who have done it over and over again and our buddy to take that next up to care for each other and be wise.

I think we are all ready for this and we need to help each other and hold the hands of those who are more at risk and those who might be a little more slower to ease their own restrictions which include supporting people and respecting people who choose to keep a distance or wear a mask or keep their contact rings a small.

It's about respect and caring for us to use the blankets we have.

Thank you.

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

>> Reporter: This is for the minister.

Does the Yukon government have any plans on getting more involved in lobbying for a full border opening.

A lot of Yukoners are ready to go to Haines and Skagway and other parts of Alaska.

>> I know the premier has been in touch with Mr Don Leavy in Alaska who is supportive of easing the restrictions, the federal government is taking steps and will be allowing vaccinated Americans into the country safely.

I know that the US federal government is looking at their society and they do not want to open up the border to Canadians at this time.

Just today I believe they've announced they are going to keep the border restrictions in to the 21st of August.

So of course we -- the premier is lobbying his American counterparts and I know we are in Tosh with the federal government and they are alive bring to start to start the

transporter trade and travel but right now the bite administration has decided to keep those restrictions in place.

They are looking at their needs and their country and they will take action when they deem it's appropriate just like our federal government.

>> Pat: Thank you.

Claudia N.

[Speaking French]

>> Andre: Can you please explain in French which of the restrictions are going to stay in place on August 4th?

You talked about those that are removed but are what are those that will stay in place.

[Speaking French]

>> Pat: You given that in English.

Do have another question?

[Speaking French]

>> Andre: Can you give us some indications of your reasoning on lifting these restrictions given that what is going to come is a lot of tourists from the United States, what are your reasonings to propose the lifting of these restrictions.

[Speaking French]

[Speaking French]

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



The next COVID update will take place Wednesday July 28th at 10:30 AM.

