

# FAQ for Site C workers: COVID-19



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## Contents

(click on the question below to read the answer)

- BC Hydro health and safety measures .....3**
  - Are there any people in the camp with COVID-19? .....3
  - I am staying in camp; can I travel to town during my rotation? .....3
  - What has BC Hydro done to protect all Site C workers? .....3
  - When there is a confirmed positive case in camp, how does BC Hydro and ATCO work together with the Northern Health Authority? .....4
  - Does WorkSafeBC have a role in preventative measures for camp/site? .....4
  - What happens when there is a case of COVID-19 in the camp? .....4
  - What is happening with the Site C shuttle? .....4
  
- What’s new at the ATCO Two Rivers Camp? .....4**
  - What is the check-in and check-out procedure .....4
  - Are there thermal scanners in the camp? .....5
  - What entertainment options are available to me in camp? .....5
  - What are the meal time procedures? .....5
  - What happens if I miss my meal reservation time? .....5
  - What do I do for physical distancing and mask use in the camp? .....5
  - What about hand washing stations? .....6
  - What about the mug-up area? .....6
  
- What can I expect in Camp? .....6**
  - What has ATCO done in the camp to protect guests? .....6
  - How are guests maintaining distancing standards in the bathroom at the dining room? How is ATCO ensuring that congestion is managed? .....7
  - Does ATCO have enough cleaning and housekeeping supplies? .....7
  - Will ATCO run out of supplies such as food and toilet paper, due to transportation and shipping issues with closed borders? .....7
  - How does ATCO ensure their staff are trained to perform enhanced cleaning measures? .....7

What kind of cleaning products does ATCO use to clean the Lodge?.....	7
How often are hoteling showers cleaned? .....	7
Do I have to have my room cleaned if I don't want it cleaned?.....	8
Can measures be put in place at the Commissary that can prevent the workers from touching everyone's items to scan them, then touching the next persons items, to prevent cross contamination?.....	8
I am concerned about the transmission of COVID-19 through the HVAC system in camp. ....	8
Is the camp expansion completed? .....	8
<b>Medical / isolation and quarantine .....</b>	<b>8</b>
If I am told by the public health authority to isolate am I supposed to stay here at camp? And if I choose to isolate at home, how do I get home? .....	8
What happens if I have symptoms and need a COVID-19 test? .....	8
What happens if I am under quarantine at camp? How will healthy people in camp be protected from contact with possible or actual COVID-19 cases in camp? .....	9
If someone tests positive on my crew, would the whole crew be quarantined?.....	9
I'm feeling stressed and overwhelmed. Who can I reach out to? .....	9
Should I isolate after returning home? .....	9
What happens at the end of the self-isolation period?.....	9
<b>Employers.....</b>	<b>10</b>
What is my employer doing to protect workers? .....	10
What travel policies are being implemented for Site C workers?.....	10
Will there be pre-screening for people coming into camp?.....	10
Are people being asked if they have travelled during turnaround?.....	10
<b>Pay, compensation and job protection .....</b>	<b>10</b>
If I get sick and stay home, or even get COVID-19, will I get paid? .....	10
Do I get paid if I have been advised by the medical clinic to isolate in camp? .....	10
What are my rights if I need to take a leave?.....	11
<b>Health screening at site access points .....</b>	<b>11</b>
What pre-screening measures has BC Hydro implemented at Site C? .....	11
What is the process if I am denied entry? Should I go home?.....	11
If I am denied entry will I still be paid? .....	12

Is there an appeal process if I do not agree with the temperature scan or the questionnaire?... 12  
 Do people that go in and out of site multiple times per day still have to scan each time or is it only once per day per person? ..... 12

**General questions about COVID-19 ..... 12**

What is COVID-19? ..... 12  
 How do I prevent myself from getting COVID-19? ..... 12  
 What are my responsibilities as a worker? ..... 12  
 Where can I access the most up to date information on the COVID-19 virus? ..... 13  
 Is there a COVID-19 self-assessment tool? ..... 13  
 I’m at camp and not feeling well. What do I do? ..... 13  
 I’m at home and not feeling well. What do I do? ..... 14

**BC Hydro health and safety measures**

**Are there any people in the camp with COVID-19?**

- BC Hydro regularly updates information on positive COVID-19 cases on our website at [sitecproject.com/COVID-19](http://sitecproject.com/COVID-19).
- Please visit the website for the most up to date information

**I am staying in camp; can I travel to town during my rotation?**

- BC Hydro and its prime contractors are asking individuals staying in camp to restrict their travel to local communities to essential needs only, and that local workers continue to respect our health authority’s advice regarding mask use and social gatherings. Recent public exposure events have led to a rise of positive cases in the Northern Health region.

**What has BC Hydro done to protect all Site C workers?**

- ATCO and the medical clinic are providing COVID-19 information throughout camp.
- BC Hydro has restricted non-essential visitors to site by postponing or cancelling all site tours and guest employee meetings.
- BC Hydro has implemented deep cleaning of our construction offices.
- Security has implemented controls to minimize transmission risk at all Site C access points, including workers scanning their own site-access passes, and video verification of ID, as well as health and temperature screening.
- ATCO has implemented additional measures in the camp; please see questions in the “Camp” section later in this document.

### **When there is a confirmed positive case in camp, how does BC Hydro and ATCO work together with the Northern Health Authority?**

- The Site C medical clinic is within the Northern Health region, and expected to follow provincial guidelines for the quarantine, testing, treatment, and transportation of a COVID-19 case.
- ATCO and the medical clinic have implemented an isolation and quarantine plan to manage any contagious illness, including seasonal influenza, gastrointestinal infections, and possibly COVID-19.
- BC Hydro has the responsibility to make operational decisions about Site C.

### **Does WorkSafeBC have a role in preventative measures for camp/site?**

- WorkSafeBC is advising employers and workers to follow all provincial health authority directives and guidelines including physical distancing, sanitization, personal hygiene, and use of PPE such as masks, gloves and goggles.
- WorkSafeBC provides additional guidance for industries in B.C. on their website: [www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates](http://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates)

### **What happens when there is a case of COVID-19 in the camp?**

- Site C is within the Northern Health region, and expected to follow provincial guidelines for the quarantine, testing, treatment, and transportation of a COVID-19 case.
- ATCO and the medical clinic have implemented an isolation and quarantine plan to manage any contagious illness, including seasonal influenza, gastrointestinal infections, and COVID-19.
- The quarantine area is isolated from the main shared areas of camp, provides some amenities for patients, and can be scaled as necessary. ATCO has the trained staff, facilities and supplies required to manage a sizable quarantine.
- Examples of quarantine controls include meals delivered in disposable serving dishes which are bagged and disposed of separately, linens sent to an authorized commercial facility, and anyone interacting with the workers will be required to wear masks, gowns and gloves.

### **What is happening with the Site C shuttle?**

- Effective April 3, BC Hydro temporarily suspended the Site C shuttle service between Two Rivers Lodge and Fort St. John. We continue to monitor the situation and will consider reinstating service at the appropriate time.

### **What's new at the ATCO Two Rivers Camp?**

#### **What is the check-in and check-out procedure**

- Your accommodation check-in and check-out has gone online. Returning camp guests can retain their room card and are able to check-in and out of the Lodge using a new application and self-serve kiosks in the lobby/atrium. If you forget or lose your card, please see the front desk for a new card.
- Please note, for your first time staying in the ATCO Two Rivers Lodge, you will need to check-in directly with the front desk.

### **Are there thermal scanners in the camp?**

- To help everyone keep safe, BC Hydro and Site C contractors have set up thermal scanners at various exit/entry points in the worker accommodation lodge. These scanners are for workers to use before they board crew buses or leave camp to go to various project work fronts each day.
- Local workers are already scanned each day when they enter the site. These camp scanners are another way to help workers staying in camp check their health every day before work.

### **What entertainment options are available to me in camp?**

- ATCO made the following recreational areas available:
  - Gym cardio area (25 persons max)
  - The Bean (coffee shop) for takeout only
- Outdoor recreation areas, such as patios, gazebo and other spaces for use other than team sports, will be opened for individual use and instructor-led classes only.
- Picnic tables will be open for use as long as guests observe physical distancing rules.
- The outdoor pathway is open and being serviced and monitored for wildlife.
- Group sports such as basketball, tennis and soccer, are **not** permitted at this time.
- The Spiritual Room is not currently available.

### **What are the meal time procedures?**

- As part of ATCO's COVID-19 response, ATCO is required by Northern Health to manage the number of guests in our common spaces.
- To help facilitate this, guests are required to book dining room times for both meal services, breakfast and dinner.
- There are two ways to book your dining room times:
  1. **Online:** Online web application where your meal time can be booked from your phone or computer
  2. **At the kiosks:** You can book your meal time when you check in, or anytime after that, at the kiosks used for checking in / checking out located in the north boot room, lobby and in the dining room.
- Only guests who have booked their meal time, will be allowed in the dining room.
- Instructions for both options are included within your check in package. Please ask the front desk if you have any questions around setup or how to use the kiosks or online application.

### **What happens if I miss my meal reservation time?**

- You won't go hungry! Make a new reservation on the app or contact the front desk for a new meal time.
- You may book your meal time through the kiosk on the same day. If you miss your time, you will need to speak to front desk to have a new time setup.

### **What do I do for physical distancing and mask use in the camp?**

- B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer directives require all workers to maintain a physical distance of two metres (six feet) from other people.

- Masks / face coverings are also **mandatory** in all common areas in the camp.
- Exclusions to mandatory masks wearing will be in the gym (when physical distancing), the dining room and lounge (while seated), or at desks in offices where physical distancing can be maintained. **Please note:** bandanas used at work cannot be worn in the dining room, for health code reasons.
- Facial coverings include cloth masks, disposable masks, bandanas, and pull-up neck tubes. Physical distancing and/or mask use applies everywhere, including in personal and work vehicles, shuttle buses, office and field locations, and in our local communities.
- ATCO requires all their employees to wear masks, including food service preparation staff.
- Disposable masks are available as mask stations throughout the camp
- Guests are responsible for ensuring they comply with physical distancing requirements throughout the facility including in the lobby, hallways, elevators, boot rooms, dining areas and when loading and unloading from buses and shuttles.
- Line demarcations for 6' spacing are on the floor in the atrium (lobby), north boot room, Commissary, and meal services lines.

#### **What about hand washing stations?**

- There are six handwashing stations available in the dining room.
- Guests are reminded of the handwashing protocol:
  - All camp guests are required to wash hands before entering the dining room.
  - If you are coming to the dining room from your camp room, wash your hands in your room and sanitize upon entry to dining room.
  - If you are coming to the dining room from boot room, you can use: boot room washroom, atrium washroom, theatre washroom in addition to dining room washroom to wash your hands before dining. Continue to sanitize upon entry.

#### **What about the mug-up area?**

- The mug-up area has been expanded to provide for additional physical distancing. The seating area of The Bean coffee shop has been renovated to create an additional seating space

### **What can I expect in Camp?**

#### **What has ATCO done in the camp to protect guests?**

- ATCO has implemented the highest level of enhanced cleaning procedures and containment in shared areas of the Lodge.
- Every two hours, ATCO disinfects all shared touch points in the facility using an antiviral product.
- Touch points include doors, handles, tables, counters, desks, buttons in elevators or door bells, benches and chairs and more.
- Plexiglass barriers are installed at the front desk, in retail areas and the dining hall.
- ATCO has implemented increased measures in the dining room:
  - Dining room is organized into five sections of 50 sitting areas.

- Tables in the dining room have been setup to help guests adhere to the physical distancing guideline of 2 meters.
- The dining area has removed virtually all self serve options
- Fresh fruit is either portioned and packaged or handed out as guests request it.
- Salad bars have been replaced by packaged selections.
- Water fountains and refilling stations have been closed with bottled water provided in their place.
- ATCO has additional staff on site to manage the changes in the dining room.

**How are guests maintaining distancing standards in the bathroom at the dining room?  
How is ATCO ensuring that congestion is managed?**

- On average at peak times it takes approximately three minutes to get in and out of the washroom when washing your hands.
- Washrooms are being monitored and cleaned frequently using proper sanitization methods.

**Does ATCO have enough cleaning and housekeeping supplies?**

- Supplies of basic hygiene products (such as surgical masks, sanitizers, and even toilet paper) were extremely limited, however supplies are more available now.
- ATCO has several wholesale suppliers and to date has been able to source sufficient supplies for Site C needs, including for our contingency plans.

**Will ATCO run out of supplies such as food and toilet paper, due to transportation and shipping issues with closed borders?**

- Supplies that are required for camp such as food and toilet paper are delivered by commercial suppliers that have Canadian distributors and are scaled to serve a facility like the ATCO Two Rivers Lodge.
- ATCO has been working closely with all its key suppliers to ensure there is no disruption to the supply chain.

**How does ATCO ensure their staff are trained to perform enhanced cleaning measures?**

- Enhanced cleaning measures are being completed by a dedicated team of janitorial professionals along with high level oversight of the detailed logs and records ensuring end-to-end coverage in the Lodge.

**What kind of cleaning products does ATCO use to clean the Lodge?**

- The chemical used in the Lodge is Oxivir 5 concentrate. This is a hospital-grade disinfectant cleaner effective against a wide variety of micro-organisms including viruses, bacteria, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, fungi, mould and mildew.

**How often are hoteling showers cleaned?**

- On Mondays and Thursdays, ATCO cleans the hoteling showers every two hours as part of the enhanced cleaning procedures. On all other days, ATCO will clean the showers as they are used.

### **Do I have to have my room cleaned if I don't want it cleaned?**

- All guest rooms must be cleaned by an ATCO staff member to ensure appropriate health and safety practices are applied.

### **Can measures be put in place at the Commissary that can prevent the workers from touching everyone's items to scan them, then touching the next persons items, to prevent cross contamination?**

- ATCO has already implemented a higher level of enhanced cleaning procedures in shared areas, including the Commissary.
- Commissary staff wear gloves when handling items and taking payment. Two payment stations have been set up to shorten service times. Guests should also make use of the hand sanitizing stations at both entrances of the Commissary.
- ATCO monitors the number of guests accessing the Commissary and has found the number of guests is within recommended guidelines.
- We ask that guests remember to maintain physical distancing within the Commissary.

### **I am concerned about the transmission of COVID-19 through the HVAC system in camp.**

- The heating and ventilation system in camp is a sealed system, which means that air is moved through with a minimum of 20 per cent fresh air at all times. The system is designed to filter outside air coming in.
- Because COVID-19 isn't an airborne virus, to date there isn't a HVAC system that has been shown to be effective against minimizing the spread of COVID-19.
- The most effective preventative measure remains frequent disinfecting of high touch point surfaces and frequent handwashing.

### **Is the camp expansion completed?**

- A second camp expansion which includes an additional 450 beds, was completed and ready for occupancy.

## **Medical / isolation and quarantine**

### **If I am told by the public health authority to isolate am I supposed to stay here at camp? And if I choose to isolate at home, how do I get home?**

- You can use [this information sheet](#) from the BCCDC to help you self-monitor, and if you develop symptoms go to your room in camp and call medical clinic at 778.844.0281:
- People resident in camp can and will be safely isolated in camp.
- People resident in Fort St. John may return home to be isolated at home.
- If you choose to travel home to isolate, please contact the medical clinic for instructions to travel home in a safe and responsible manner, following regional public health advisories regarding travel and isolation.

### **What happens if I have symptoms and need a COVID-19 test?**

- COVID-19 testing is conducted in accordance with public health guidelines established by the Ministry of Health, which state anyone with symptoms should be tested.
- People with positive test results, will be quarantined in an isolated and protected section of camp.



- People waiting for a test result will be isolated until they receive a negative result and symptoms have resolved.
- The medical clinic is well equipped with medical supplies to keep people who are sick comfortable.
- If required, anyone who becomes really ill, including with the virus, will be safely transported to the Fort St. John hospital for treatment and care.

**What happens if I am under quarantine at camp? How will healthy people in camp be protected from contact with possible or actual COVID-19 cases in camp?**

- ATCO and the medical clinic have implemented an isolation and quarantine plan to manage any contagious illness, including seasonal influenza, gastrointestinal infections, and possibly COVID-19.
- The quarantine area is isolated from the main shared areas of camp, provides some amenities for patients, and can be scaled as necessary. ATCO has the trained staff, facilities and supplies required to manage even a sizable quarantine.
- Examples of quarantine controls include meals delivered in disposable serving dishes which are bagged and disposed of separately, linens sent to an authorized commercial facility, and anyone interacting with the workers will be required to wear masks, gowns and gloves.

**If someone tests positive on my crew, would the whole crew be quarantined?**

- The Northern Health Authority, with support from the onsite medical clinic, will complete contact tracing and directly contact anyone who needs to be isolated or tested.
- Based on experience, most contacts are not deemed close enough to be quarantined. However, rigorous compliance with physical distancing with your fellow workers, in the lunch room and at work sites is especially critical if someone on the crew is positive.

**I'm feeling stressed and overwhelmed. Who can I reach out to?**

- All employers involved with Site C know this is a stressful time and situation for everyone, especially employees and your families.
- If you are feeling overwhelmed, please reach out to your employer and/or union Employee Family Assistance Program.

**Should I isolate after returning home?**

- Workers returning home from Site C are not under any special advisory to self-monitor.
- However, health authorities advise everyone to self-monitor their health, at all times, for symptoms such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing; especially if you have returned to Canada from international travel or an area with a number of COVID-19 cases.

**What happens at the end of the self-isolation period?**

- When a worker is medically cleared from isolation, it is up to the employer if they want to have the individual return to work or go home.

## **Employers**

### **What is my employer doing to protect workers?**

- BC Hydro is supporting contractors/employers with regular updates, and coordination meetings will continue as information is updated.
- Contractors and employers on site are required to hold information sessions with their workforce, relaying COVID-19 information as appropriate.
- Contractors have already been actively participating in additional cleaning measures.
- Please contact your employer for additional information.

### **What travel policies are being implemented for Site C workers?**

- Currently, the Government of Canada and health authorities are advising strongly against non-essential travel outside of Canada, including to the U.S.
- A Site C International Travel Protocol is in place, which is compliant with federal and provincial guidelines and enables essential or critical international workers to travel to site. Please contact your employer's COVID-19 coordinator to travel under this protocol.
- Please contact your employer regarding charter and commercial flights organized through your company.

### **Will there be pre-screening for people coming into camp?**

- BC Hydro and its contractors carry out pre-access screening consisting of a COVID-19 questionnaire, along with a non-invasive temperature scan.
- Full implementation of this pre-access screening is in place at both Gate A and B and in the camp

### **Are people being asked if they have travelled during turnaround?**

- Contractors and BC Hydro are asking workers before they return to site if they have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days.
- If so, under direction of provincial and federal health authorities, they will be required to isolate for 14 days unless they qualify for reduced isolation under Site C protocols.

## **Pay, compensation and job protection**

### **If I get sick and stay home, or even get COVID-19, will I get paid?**

- The federal government has announced assistance programs for people impacted by COVID-19;.
- Please contact your employer to understand their health and wellness benefit programs, as well as how to access government assistance programs.

### **Do I get paid if I have been advised by the medical clinic to isolate in camp?**

- BC Hydro has worked with their contractors to ensure that workers who are advised by the medical clinic on site to quarantine at the camp, will be compensated by their employer

- Each employer has their own employment relationship with workers on the project and in camp. Employers are responsible for compensation packages. Please contact your employer to determine medically advised isolation compensation.

### **What are my rights if I need to take a leave?**

- The provincial government recently announced a new COVID-19 job protection leave. An employee can take unpaid, job-protected leave related to COVID-19 if they're unable to work for any of the following reasons:
  - They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are following the instructions of a medical health officer or the advice of a doctor or nurse
  - They are in quarantine or self-isolation and are acting in accordance with an order of the provincial health officer, an order made under the *Quarantine Act* (Canada), guidelines from the B.C. Centre for Disease Control or guidelines from the Public Health Agency of Canada
  - Their employer has directed them not to work due to concern about their exposure to others
  - They need to provide care to their minor child or a dependent adult who is their child or former foster child for a reason related to COVID-19, including a school, daycare or similar facility closure
  - They are outside of B.C. and unable to return to work due to travel or border restrictions
- During this public health emergency, employees can take this job-protected leave for the reasons above as long as they need it, without putting their job at risk.
- Once it is no longer needed, this leave will be removed from the *Employment Standards Act*. For more information, please visit speak with your employer or go to <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards/time-off/leaves-of-absence>

## **Health screening at site access points**

### **What pre-screening measures has BC Hydro implemented at Site C?**

- BC Hydro carries out pre-access screening consisting of a COVID-19 questionnaire, along with a non-invasive temperature scan.
- Full implementation of this pre-access screening is in place at both Gate A and B.
- Contractors working on Site C conduct COVID-19 screening for employees returning on charter flights to Fort St. John.

### **What is the process if I am denied entry? Should I go home?**

- You should return home if you can do so safely. If you cannot return home, you should check with your employer and may isolate in camp.
- If you are recommended for isolation, your site card will be temporarily deactivated during your isolation period. The medical clinic will notify your employer if you are required to isolate. No other details of your assessment will be provided to BC Hydro or your employer.

### **If I am denied entry will I still be paid?**

- You should contact your employer to understand their health and wellness benefit programs, as well as how to access government assistance programs.

### **Is there an appeal process if I do not agree with the temperature scan or the questionnaire?**

- You must be screened before going onsite. There is no appeal process. Work with your employer to address your concerns with submitting to the screening.

### **Do people that go in and out of site multiple times per day still have to scan each time or is it only once per day per person?**

- People will be screened once a day, at first entry.
- Inform the screener you will be going in and out of site that day and you will receive a wristband to indicate you do not have to be screened again when you return to site.

## **General questions about COVID-19**

### **What is COVID-19?**

- COVID-19 is an illness caused by a coronavirus. Human coronaviruses are common and typically associated with illnesses similar to the common cold.
- The most up-to-date list of COVID-19 symptoms can be found on the BC Centre for Disease Control website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>

### **How do I prevent myself from getting COVID-19?**

- In addition to physical distancing, the most important thing you can do to prevent infection is to wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face. To help reduce your risk of infection:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Using soap and water is the single most effective way of reducing the spread of infection.
  - If a sink is not available, alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) can be used to clean your hands as long as they are not visibly soiled. If they are visibly soiled, use a wipe and then ABHR to effectively clean them.
  - Do not touch your face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow when you sneeze or cough.
  - Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
  - Do not share food, drinks, utensils, etc.

### **What are my responsibilities as a worker?**

- The Provincial Health Officer issued an order on April 23, which was updated on July 2, laying out the responsibilities of employers and workers for industrial camps. The Order can be accessed here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-industrial-camps.pdf>

- In accordance with the Order and to protect themselves, other workers and communities, workers must:
  - follow physical distancing, hygiene and other infection control and prevention measures while on the worksite, in worker accommodation and during any transportation.
  - self-monitor daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and report any symptoms to the medical clinic or other designated staff member.
- The July 2020 updates included the following requirements:
  - Compliance with your employer's COVID-19 protocol
  - Diligent hand hygiene at all times
  - Maintaining physical distancing
- When going offsite, please continue to practice these measures in local communities.
- Employers and the worker accommodation will provide further information and training to workers.

#### **Where can I access the most up to date information on the COVID-19 virus?**

- We recommend keeping updated on the latest information issued by your regional health and national health authorities:
  - **Northern Health:** <https://www.northernhealth.ca/>
  - **BC Centre for Disease Control:** <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/information-on-novel-coronavirus>
  - **HealthLink BC:** <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
  - **The Public Health Agency of Canada:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

#### **Is there a COVID-19 self-assessment tool?**

- The BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool can be accessed at: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>
- A self-assessment app is accessible for download here <https://www.thrive.health/canada-covid19-app>
- Northern Health has launched a COVID-19 Online Clinic and Information Line to help answer questions and concerns from Northern BC residents.
- The Northern Health COVID-19 Online Clinic and Information Line can be reached at 1.844.645.7811
  - This service is staffed by nurses, physicians, and nurse practitioners, offering virtual screening and assessment for individuals who feel they may have COVID-19 or feel they have been exposed.
  - By calling the Online Clinic, Northern BC residents can receive information, may undergo virtual screening, be assessed by a nurse, and may see a physician or nurse practitioner if it is required.

#### **I'm at camp and not feeling well. What do I do?**

- If you feel sick in camp, especially with cold or flu-like symptoms, please do not leave your room, or return to your room.
- Contact the medical clinic located in camp at 778.844.0281 for a pre-screening.

- A trained professional from the clinic will come to you if further assessment is necessary.
- This is important to prevent any possible virus infections from spreading, including the influenza A, influenza B, and gastrointestinal infections we have seen before at camp.
- Contact your employer and provide an update.

**I'm at home and not feeling well. What do I do?**

- If you feel sick at home, contact your employer and stay home to prevent spreading any illness to others. If you live with others, stay in a separate room or keep a two-metre distance.
- Call your local public health authority or a health care professional. Tell them your symptoms and follow their instructions. If you need immediate medical attention, especially if you're having trouble breathing, call 911 and tell them your symptoms.