



# Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority Inc.

## Media Release

Issued Thursday, March 26, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

### **NITHA Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) - COVID-19**

Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA) began taking measures to implement its Pandemic Plan on March 9, 2020.

NITHA, the only third level First Nations health organization in the country provides Medical Health Officer services to its Partners, the Prince Albert Grand Council, Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. These services include Communicable Disease Control, Surveillance, Immunization, TB Control, guidance in Nursing as well as training and guidance in Infection Prevention & Control, Mental Health & Addictions and Health Promotions.

#### Closure to General Public

NITHA closed its doors to the general public on March 18, 2020 to minimize potential risk to employees. The hours of operation are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### Pandemic Plan Activated

NITHA began implementing its Pandemic Plan by establishing an internal COVID-19 Pandemic Committee led by our Emergency Response Coordinator and the Medical Health Officer. Membership consists of expertise in Emergency Response, Infection Control, Environmental Health, CDC, Nursing and Surveillance. As a result of increased calls and emails, the NITHA Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been activated and has been operational since March 23, 2020. This is a single point of contact to collect information, coordinate action and communication in our response to COVID-19. Incoming calls and emails are responded to upon receipt and forwarded to the appropriate NITHA Lead. All inquiries are tracked to ensure each request has been completed in a timely manner.

<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>WEBSITE</b>
<b>1-855-559-5510</b>	<a href="mailto:nithaeoc@nitha.com"><u>nithaeoc@nitha.com</u></a>	<a href="http://www.nitha.com/covid-19/"><u>http://www.nitha.com/covid-19/</u></a>

#### Connected with Internal & External Stakeholders

NITHA remains committed to providing support to its Partners, Prince Albert Grand Council, Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. As well, NITHA remains connected to its Municipal, Provincial and Federal stakeholders by actively participating in several meetings to acquire and share up to date information.

#### NITHA's Essential Services During the Pandemic

1. Coordination (planning and logistics)
2. Surveillance
3. Communication – education, awareness, risk communication
4. Infection Prevention and Control
5. Case Management Support and Contact Investigation
6. Nursing and Surge Capacity

For more information or for general inquiries, please call, NITHA Reception at: 306- 953- 5000

