



Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority Inc.



April 6, 2020

TO: NITHA Partner Community Mental Health & Addiction Departments

Re: Recommendations amidst COVID-19 Response – Emergent Mental Health Care – Minors Under 16

In cases where there are emergent needs of a *Minor* under the age of 16 facing suicidal ideations, psychosis, anxiety and/or depression, please implement social distancing efforts (6 meters), and complete the suicide assessment with these protective measures being followed only when assessed to be high-risk.

In response to the growing concern surrounding COVID-19, and the implications of Emergent Mental Health Care in the following instances:

- 1) Suicidal Active Client/Patients in Community – deemed medium to high-risk
- 2) Emergent Protective Measures – Hospitalization Intervention Process
- 3) Transportation to Hospital

If you have assessed anyone to fall within medium to high-risk following a suicide risk assessment process; protective measures are as follows;

- 1) Communication with Client/Patient(s) and Emergency Contact on file
- 2) Communication with Emergency Department with Local Hospital to arrange admit for observation, and further assessment
- 3) Communication with Medical Transportation to transport Client/Patient to Hospital

In the event, a minor has been assessed to be high-risk the primary guardian and/or custodian can attend with the Client/Patient to hospital, as they are under the age of 16 years, which requires an adult or primary guardian be present for admission and/or treatment approval.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Mental Health & Addiction Advisor.

Sincerely,

Glenda Watson BHSc., M.Ed. (Psych), CCC
Mental Health & Addiction Advisor