# Frequently Asked Questions: TSLEIL-WAUTUTH COVID-19 VIRUS COMMUNITY PROTECTION BY-LAW, 2020

If you have more questions please email communications@twnation.ca or call 604-924-4197

**June 5, 2020**

1. **Question:** Why is this by-law important?
 **Answer:** This by-law is an important tool to stop the spread of COVID-19 on the TWN reserve. The goal is to keep the community safe.
2. **Question:** How are TWN’s regulations different than BC’s?
 **Answer:** TWN is following BC’s Restart Plan very closely. The decision to close the community to outsiders was made with the protection of the community in mind. While we are all at risk and all have a role in helping to minimize the spread of this virus, as Indigenous people we are at heightened risk, due to a combination of factors.
3. **Question:** How can we get in touch with the TWN Health department?
 **Answer:** Call the Health department at **604-929-4133 with** any questions relating to non-emergency health situations. If you need emergency care call 911.
4. **Question:** What happens if I violate the by-law?
 **Answer:** The process for enforcing this by-law is first educate the community, next a warning will be issued, finally, where there are serious or repeated violations and warnings or orders are ignored, we will turn to the penalties within the by-law to protect the safety of Members.
5. **Question:** What is the process to get approval to have visitors on the reserve?
 **Answer:** Email communications@twnation.ca
6. **Question:** Who will enforce the by-law?
 **Answer:** A Tsleil-Waututh Official has been appointed by council to enforce this by-law. Contact Sam George at **604-787-2909**.
7. **Question:** How long will this by-law be in effect?
 **Answer:** This by-law is in effect until council repeals or replaces it and will be reviewed regularly during this pandemic
8. **Question:** How many people am I allowed in my house?
 **Answer:** You are allowed a maximum of 10 people in your home as long as you have enough space to allow for the 6-foot distancing, while on the TWN reserve.
9. **Question**: Can I have an outdoor picnic with my neighbors?
 **Answer:** Yes, as long as all members of the group are permitted on reserve, the group is smaller than 10 people and you can maintain social distancing. (defined in section 7 of the by-law)
10. **Question:** Why do we need this by-law?
 **Answer:** This bylaw is intended to keep the community safe by legally recognizing and implementing public health recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
11. **Question:** What is social distancing?
 **Answer:** Social distancing is when you stay physically apart from other people, 6 feet is required, while staying socially connected. The goal is the reduce the number of times people come into close contact with one-another. You can stay connected through social media, phone calls, and video chatting.
12. **Question:** Will I be able to go visit my parents?
 **Answer:** If you can maintain the social distance of 6 feet then visitation between people who live on reserve is allowed.
13. **Question:** With provincial government loosening restrictions, will the By-law be changed or amended?
 **Answer:** Yes, the by-law we will amended as needed and Council will be regularly reviewing.
14. **Question:** When are we enacting a bylaw?
 **Answer:** This by-law is enacted.
15. **Question:** This type of information package may cause distress to some members, I think it would be better to provide us with services that we can use?
 **Answer:** The intention of this by-law is to keep the community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit twnation.ca or call 604-929-3454 for more information on services. The Health Department and Community Development have various support programs for the community.
16. **Question:** Will we be able to have friends over that are not from the community?
 **Answer:** Currently there are no visitors permitted in the community. See section 7.1 of the by-law for a list of permitted people. Email communications@twnation.ca if you have a specific question.
17. **Question:** How can we keep people off the reserve?
 **Answer:** The Tsleil-Waututh Official, Sam George will be enforcing the COVID-19 by-law and educating those that may be passing through.
18. **Question:** Does this mean my almost live in boyfriend can’t stay here anymore?
 **Answer:** Currently there are no visitors permitted in the community. See section 7.1 of the by-law for a list of permitted people. It is fine if you have invited your live-in boyfriend to live with you at your home. The by-law allows for non-members to access TWN Lands if they have been invited to reside at the owner’s home.
19. **Question:** Why are we coming out with this by-law now?
 **Answer:** The purpose of this by-law is to protect the Tsleil-Waututh community from the spread of COVID-19. This was not a decision made lightly by Council - it took some serious deliberation and consideration.  Council and staff spent many meetings discussing how to roll it out.  It was not done rapidly; we wanted to take some time to carefully consider the issues. In non-pandemic times, we would have called a community meeting to discuss, much like we did with other issues.  Due to the pandemic, we could not host a meeting and speed was important.  Some communities don’t have a by-law and others implemented by-laws or laws that are much stricter.  We wanted to strike a balance and consider something that would fit for TWN.
20. **Question:** How does TWN plan on enforcing other by-laws? (i.e. the noise control by-law)
 **Answer:** The Tsleil-Waututh Official, Sam George will be enforcing the COVID-19 by-law. Administration will look into options for other by-law enforcement in the future.
21. **Question:** Can my partner come over and help me? I have an injury and require assistance.
 **Answer:** Currently there are no visitors permitted in the community. See section 7.1 of the by-law for a list of permitted people. You will need to seek written permission from council or the TWN Official. There are exceptions for family and close friends who provide care and support for individuals who need it.
22. **Question:** Can we put the no visitors signs back in the road?
 **Answer:** The signs are on the edge of the road to reduce the risk of them being hit and getting damaged.
23. **Question:** How do you get permission from council to allow a visitor from outside the reserve?
 **Answer:** Email communications@twnation.ca or call 604-924-4197 with details on your specific request.
24. **Question:** Does this mean my sister can’t come visit anymore? She lives outside community but has been coming over already.

**Answer:** Currently there are no visitors permitted in the community. See section 7.1 of the by-law for a list of permitted people. We encourage everyone to practice physical distancing when visiting. TWN is currently not allowing gatherings of over 10 people who do not live together under the same roof. There are exceptions for family and close friends who provide care and support for individuals who need it. Except in cases where care or support is being provided, for

the time being Council is encouraging everyone to stay home and visit over the phone or

internet.

1. **Question:** I have a friend who has been coming and staying here most of the time, and she is family will she get in trouble or fined if she comes.  We are just staying home and paddle boarding sometimes

**Answer:** Currently there are no visitors permitted in the community. See section 7.1 of the by-law for a list of permitted people. Council is encouraging everyone to practice physical distancing when socializing and is not allowing gatherings of over 10 people who do not live together under the same roof. For the time being Council is encouraging everyone to stay home and visit over the phone or internet. If you are meeting with your friend to do an outdoor activity while maintaining physical distancing that is perfectly fine.

1. **Question:** Why are the numbers so different then the province numbers.

**Answer:** The numbers are not that different then the Province recommends. Council developed the community protection by-law to provide specific guidelines and measures that are reasonable for TWN people and lands under current circumstances.

1. **Question:** If I am just an employee does that mean I can’t walk down with my kids as they aren’t members?
 **Answer:** You will need to seek written permission from council or the TWN Official.
2. **Question:** Why can’t we have visitors

**Answer**: The goal is to protect the community from the spread of COVID-19. Currently there are no visitors permitted in the community. See section 7.1 of the by-law for a list of permitted people. There are provisions where council can approve other people to enter the reserve.

1. **Question:** Where does this by-law apply?

**Answer:** Only on TWN reserve land.

1. **Question:** How does membership get a hold of the appointed official, Sam George? What are his hours, where is his office and what is the process to follow for occurrences or concerns outside of Sam's hours?
 **Answer:** Call Sam at **604-787-2909.** His hours change depending on the day.
2. **Question:** We are trying to get out from under the thumb of the Indian Act, why does this by law reference it as being in line with Indian Act? It would seem that it could align with Tsleil-Waututh land code, CCP, and Land Use Plans?

 **Answer:** TWN does have a land code. Unfortunately, under our TWN Land Code we don’t have the provision to make an emergency law. We would have to go through the three (3) reading process; and that would take time. This way, under the Indian Act, we can enact a by-law quicker to protect our members and community. We have been working on amendments to the Land Code to address this and other issues.

1. **Question:** Why are questions going to communications and not the appointed official, Sam, who is enforcing the by law?
 **Answer:** This is our current process. All questions are being compiled by communications and answered by those with the expertise and knowledge including our health department. Please reach Sam at **604-787-2909.**
2. **Question:** Does it apply to outside/non TWN contractors brought in by admin?
 **Answer:** This by-law applies to everyone who comes on TWN lands. Contractors are permitted to continue their work on approved projects.

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