

JUNE 9

FAQ: FERRY ARRIVALS

We have been sharing the North Coast Regional District's data on ferry arrivals with our community, to help with the uncertainty that each ferry arrival brings. We understand that these figures may leave you with questions so we have put together this FAQ to address these

How are the numbers obtained and how do you confirm residence on Haida Gwaii?

The North Coast Regional District (NCRD) Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has an Information Officer stationed at the ferry terminal in Prince Rupert for every sailing to assist in Haida Gwaii's efforts to protect our communities. The Information Officer receives data from BC Ferries on the number of vehicles and passengers booked, and checks in with each traveler to explain the State of Emergency restrictions on Haida Gwaii. The information gathered relies on individual's responding honestly to the questions. EOC staff do not have the authority to request to see Driver's licenses or other forms of identification. We would like to thank the NCRD for everything that they are doing. They are approaching every vehicle to explain the importance of the local regulations to keep Haida Gwaii safe and this is a crucial step in ensuring that every person arriving is informed. We cannot control who gets on the ferry but the NCRD are ensuring that everybody who does is informed and understands.

Can you confirm whether tourists are still coming on island?

The data we are collecting is based on self-reporting. We understand that you may question whether some people are responding honestly, however we cannot control this. What we can control is our personal responsibility for our own safety, by ensuring we follow the guidelines for physical distancing and hand washing.

Who needs to self isolate after returning on the ferry?

As of June 3 the CHN updated guidelines state that only those returning from a trip outside the Northern Health Authority area will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

What steps does the Village take to review arriving essential service workers?

All essential service workers send their applications to essentialworkpermits@chn.com. If the workers will be staying or working in Queen Charlotte the application, safe work plan and safe community plan are reviewed and we will work with applicants to ensure that their plans will protect our community members. The applicant is informed that they will be expected to self-isolate between work and accommodation for the first 14 days. If they will be on island longer than 14 days, we issue each worker an Essential Worker lanyard which are tracked individually.

What kind of essential service workers are arriving?

Workers are arriving to work on various projects or organizations around the island. We encourage you to approach them with the same gratitude and compassion that you do local essential service workers. Examples include Northern Health healthcare workers, construction workers, BC Hydro and Telus among others. Only projects that will last longer than 14 days are announced in advance.



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What steps has the Village taken to ensure essential service workers self isolate?

We are helping essential service workers find accommodation that provide extra supports (i.e. food pick up and delivery, laundry services) and we issue dash cards and lanyards to track numbers of workers and vehicles. We keep a copy of their isolation plans and they are expected to follow them. If we receive any reports of violations, they are followed up with the identified Project Manager for resolution.

How do these BC Ferry numbers compare to previous years?

In April 2019 there were 1,397 passengers. This compares to 217 passengers in April 2020. May 2020 total data is not yet available but 2019 figures were 1,924. It is important to remember this context when looking at the passenger numbers.

What do I do if I see an unfamiliar car come off the ferry?

With a population of 4,300 on Haida Gwaii, there are many reasons why we might not recognize a vehicle or an individual. In some cases, locals have vehicle insurance plates from other provinces that have not been replaced (people have 1 year to do so after relocating). Some people may have moved here for work, and some may just be from a different Haida Gwaii community. With the June 3rd CHN updated guidelines, travel between island communities is allowed. We need to take comfort in the excellent work that has been done by the Province to keep transmission of COVID-19 under control in our Province and ensure we show the compassion and empathy that we would like to receive and learn to trust each other to be responsible as we all learn to live in our new normal.

If an essential worker lives here full time but needs to go off island for an essential reason, are they able to work when they return, if they self isolate between shifts?

Yes, they can follow the same process as off island essential workers in terms of only going between home and work, if they have not been outside of the Northern Health Authority area.

During these times, it is more important than ever to extend compassion to one another and have empathy for each other. We have a wonderful community and it is up to us all, as individuals, to keep ourselves and one another safe. Continue to be vigilant; practice proper hand washing, physical distancing and use cloth face masks in public.

Approaching unknown vehicles and people with anger is not a solution. We can protect ourselves and lead with compassion. Haida Gwaii and the Province of BC has done excellent work to flatten the curve and we will continue to do so, leading with empathy and trust.