



Thursday, April 16, 2020

UPDATE FROM CHIEF REG NIGANOBE

Aanii/Boozhoo,

I hope everyone is safe and doing well. I would like to begin by stating that there are **NO** confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Mississauga First Nation at this time. However, we must remain vigilant, COVID-19 can spread easily and can be contracted a number of ways. As always, be safe by assuming that everyone you come into contact with has COVID-19. Act as though you have COVID-19 and you do not wish to spread the virus.

We recently had reports of individuals within the community having symptoms of COVID-19. After follow-up from our Health Team it was determined that the allegations were false. This is a very serious matter, COVID-19 should not be taken lightly. Relaying false information such as this is unacceptable in these dangerous times.

If you, or someone you know is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, please contact: The Blind River Assessment Centre to see if you meet the testing criteria at (705)356-2265.

For information and questions on COVID-19 please contact Algoma Public Health at 1-866-892-5404 ext. 5404.

Please notify our Community Health Nurse Krysta Sawyer at MFN Health Dept. at (705)356-1621 if you have symptoms or have been confirmed by testing that you have the virus. We encourage you to do this so that we may control the spread of the virus. We would also like to be able to accommodate deliveries to your home. Additionally, we would like to contact you daily to check on your health and ensure your safety. Although we must be cautious when dealing with the virus, we must work together to help those who may contract the virus.

Elementary and Secondary students have now switched to online schooling and learning. Materials are being provided by school boards and dedicated schooling staff. As our facilities remain closed (except for MFN Health Dept.) or staff continue to work from home in a very limited capacity. We can currently provide limited services due to no access to the Band Office for staff at this time. With everyone being encouraged to remain indoors for public health and safety, there is not many places to venture to at this time anyways.

Ontario's Emergency Response has been extended into May. Mississauga First Nations office closure has also been extended to May 12th. We continue to encourage people to remain in their homes during this time and not venture into public unless absolutely necessary.

If you have a mask to wear while you are out in public, please do so. Please follow and take the time to learn all the protocols when wearing, removing and washing a mask. Although masks can be effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19 they can be misused by spreading infection through improper removal or washing.

We can expect the self-isolation to continue for the remainder of the month and into May. During that time Chief and Council as well as the Emergency Control Group will continue to monitor the situation and adjust to changing conditions as they take place. As you know, there is a “no trespassing” order within the community to anyone who is not on the delivery list, resident list, service agency or emergency personnel. If you have someone who you would like to add to that list, please contact our Citizens Inquiry Line at (705)261-0149. Otherwise, they may be charged with trespassing. If you see someone who is trespassing on MFN and would like to report them to police, please contact: 1-888-310-1122.

We will continue to hold AT HOME COMMUNITY FEASTS each week. To make an order for delivery please contact our Citizens Inquiry Line at: (705)261-0149. We will do this each week in an attempt to ensure that everyone is fed throughout the pandemic. It is also being done to give everyone a break from preparing their own meals each day. The Food Bank has now been converted into a community food delivery. It is open to all community members, although we may not have everything, or a particular brand you may prefer, we do have food items for use. Deliveries are done on Thursday and orders can be placed any time before then at (705)356-1621 ext. 2242. Please leave a message for the food box team. Food is important during this time and we wish for no one to go without.

In closing, Mississauga First Nation is doing well in regard to COVID-19. Most people are adhering to social distancing. Traffic is down tremendously, and our officers have handed out trespassing fines to a few individuals. Council is now exploring the option of charging Mississauga Members who have trespassers visiting or stopping by their homes who are not on the Residential/Delivery list (Citizens Inquiry Line to add people 705-261-0149).

Please continue to wash your hands, continue to practice physical and social distancing. Please limit your contact with the public, the more contact you have and the more interactions you have the more likely you are to contract the virus and spread it.

Stay safe, make safe distancing choices, and let’s defeat this virus together by remaining apart. When we get the opportunity to see each other and gather again, it will be that much better if we can all be there to do it. COVID-19 is dangerous at any age and can only be transmitted through social interaction and exposure. So please, for your safety and the community’s safety, remain isolated.

Miigwetch,

Chief Niganobe