



## **Statement from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation On COVID-19**

**December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

At this time, we have 2 active cases of COVID-19 in the community 59 cases have been resolved, with 1 death. We have 8 residents in self isolation (close contacts of a confirmed case) and 1 member is currently hospitalized.

We are asking everyone to please continue to do your part to ensure our Nation is as safe as possible during these challenging times. We are all in this together.

### **Potential COVID-19 Exposure**

Please note that an attendee of the Council Swearing In Ceremony, held on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Community Centre, has tested positive for COVID-19.

The MCFN Community Health Nurse, after consulting with the Medical Officer of Health, is requesting that all attendees SELF-MONITOR for a period of 10 days, ending at midnight on December 26<sup>th</sup>. If you develop symptoms, you will need to isolate and make an appointment to be tested.

Please note, this is a low risk situation for those in attendance, provided that the COVID-19 protocols were maintained. All direct contacts have been advised to isolate and test.

### **Contact Tracing**

When the MCFN Community Health team is notified of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our community, an extensive contract tracing process is initiated.

Our Community Health Nurse and our Pandemic Response Nurse contact the individual or individuals and goes through a series of questions to and depending upon a few factors, on or off the territory, the type of contact (direct or indirect) with the confirmed case, the length of the contact, vaccination status of individuals and whether public health guidelines, including masking, hand washing and social distancing determines level of risk.

Consultation is made with the Indigenous Services Canada Communicable Disease Team and the Medical Officer of Health and contact is made with impacted individuals. Instructions are provided if an individual has to self-monitor, or if they need to isolate and test. Follow up takes place with the impacted household during any period of



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isolation. Please note, that all steps will be taken to ensure an individual's right to privacy during this process and only in rare situations and thorough consultation, would any identifying information be released to the public.

### **MCFN Approved COVID-19 Precautions**

Effective immediately, the following precautions will apply to our community:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events gatherings be permitted for up to twenty-five (25) people (masks mandatory if a distance of 2m cannot be maintained);
- Indoor social gatherings and organized public events be permitted with up to ten (10) people (masks mandatory);
- Indoor and outdoor dining permitted, limited to ten (10) people per table, with a 50% capacity limit;
- All retail be permitted at a 50% capacity limit to ensure physical distancing (masks mandatory);
- Indoor religious services, rites and ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services are permitted with capacity to ensure physical distancing (masks mandatory);
- Outdoor religious services, rites and ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services are permitted with capacity limited to permit physical distancing of 2m;
- Indoor fitness and personal training permitted, with maximum capacity of 50% (masks mandatory if a distance of 3m cannot be maintained);
- Personal care services open, including those that require removal of masks, with a 50% capacity limit.

Council is permitting OPP to answer reports of any violations of the above precautions.

The MCFN Chief and Council are responsible for making decisions that affect the entire Membership. If you have any concerns, please contact any member of the table.

### **COVID-19 Booster Clinic**

Miigwech to MCFN staff, and Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit staff for ensuring our past 2 clinics have been successful. Remember, the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for children age 5 and above. If you have any questions about receiving the vaccine please reach out to [vaccine@mncfn.ca](mailto:vaccine@mncfn.ca) and a Member of our Community Health team will follow-up.

Please ensure you are always receiving information on the Vaccine from a reliable source to avoid the spread of misinformation. If you have received the Vaccine, you still **must** follow public health measures, which includes social distancing, masking, handwashing and staying within your own social bubble.



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## Testing and Self Isolation

It is important to note that testing centres are becoming very busy, and results are taking longer, due to the Omicron. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have come in contact with someone who tested positive, please get tested.

Please contact the following Public Health Offices and follow their instructions:

- Haldimand Norfolk Public Health – 519-426-6170, ext. 9999
- West Haldimand General Hospital – 905-768-3311, ext. 1113
- Six Nations COVID-19 Assessment Centre – 1-855-977-7737 or 226-446-9909
- Brant County Public Health – 519-751-5818 or at [covid.assessment@bchsys.org](mailto:covid.assessment@bchsys.org)

For 10 days after their last exposure, individuals who are fully immunized should:

- wear a mask and maintain physical distancing when outside of the home to reduce the risk of transmission to others in the event they become a case;
- Self-monitor for symptoms daily and self-isolate immediately if symptoms develop.

If you have not received the vaccine you still must self-isolate for 14 days. Please note, the MCFN Community Health Office is not a Public Health Office, although it does assist with contact tracing and wellness checks for those who reside on MCFN.

## Christmas Holidays

As a reminder, all MCFN Offices are currently closed for the Christmas Vacation period. At the present time, we are scheduled to reopen on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. As always, all buildings, including the MCFN Community Centre, require everyone to complete the two-staged screening upon entering a MCFN workplace, including a temperature check and contact tracing info.

As an effort to reduce the continued risk of COVID-19, Chief and Council are requesting that everyone be mindful of all necessary COVID-19 protocols. This includes masking, keeping your social bubble small and regular hand washing and/or sanitizing.

Please take care and we wish you the happiest and healthiest holiday season!



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