



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

December 30th, 2021

At this time, we have 7 active cases of COVID-19 in the community, 60 cases have been resolved, with 1 death. We have 10 residents in self isolation (close contacts of a confirmed case) and 1 member is currently hospitalized. All impacted individuals are isolating, contact tracing has been completed and any direct contacts are adhering to the instructions provided by our MCFN Community Health professionals.

The COVID-19 situation is changing very quickly. Omicron, the new Variant of Concern, is spreading rapidly and is currently the dominant Variant of Concern in Ontario. 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.

Surrounding Numbers

As of December 29th, Six Nations currently has a total of 68 active cases of COVID-19 in their community, with 203 people in isolation. Please be mindful of this and recognize the importance of continuing with the public health guidelines.

Holiday Precautions

As we prepare to usher in 2022, please be mindful of the current public health recommendations, as it pertains to gatherings. These include the following:

- Consider cancelling gatherings altogether or gathering virtually instead, avoid visiting other households;
- If gatherings in person do occur, limit gathering size to 10 people who have received at least two vaccine doses from as few households as possible;
- For those who have travelled outside of the community recently, attendance at a gathering is not recommended.

MCFN Return to the Office

As a means of being proactive and keeping the staff, the organization and the community safe during this time, Council has approved that MCFN will do a “hard pause” in programming, and will return to essential services only, effective January 3rd, 2022 with a reassessment taking place prior to February 7th, 2022.

During this period, please note the following:

- Lifelong Learning programs, including Ekwaamjigenang Children’s Centre, EarlyON and Lloyd S. King Elementary School will be remote. **All LSK Classes**

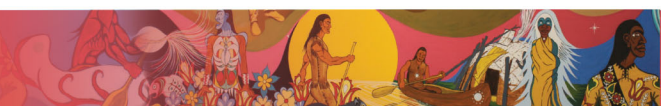


Chief and Council

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
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will resume online, effective January 6th, 2022. Additional information will be forthcoming from the LSK regrading iPad pick up in the new year;

- Necessary Social and Health Services programming, such as the Flu Shot and Immunization Clinics will continue, with enhanced COVID-19 precautions in place;
- LMR will be deemed essential for Community Wellness applications and on-reserve status cards;
- Payments to MCFN will continue to be made online or in person at the Administration building (front desk only).
- All offices will be manned by a Receptionist between the hours of 8:30 – 4:30. Please note, the phones will go to voice mail during the lunch period of 12:00-1:00.

If you require emergency assistance relating to Social and Health Programs, you can contact their land line at 905-768-1181. The Receptionist will direct your call accordingly.

If you require emergency Administrative support, please contact Kerri L. King, Acting Chief Operating Officer / Executive Director of Operations, at 289-527-0364.

If you require other information or supports, we encourage you to look to our website and social media for relevant contact numbers and resources.

Public Health Measures

As of December 19th, the Ontario government announced new COVID-19 restrictions on Friday due to the unprecedented spread of the Omicron variant. We are highly recommending you avoid any gatherings over the holidays to help keep our Community safe from the variant of concern.

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events gatherings are permitted for up to 25 people (masks mandatory if a distance of 2m cannot be maintained);
- Indoor social gatherings and organized public events are permitted with up to 10 people (masks mandatory);
- Indoor dining permitted, with a 50% capacity limit, tables limited to 10 people and proof of vaccination;
- All retail permitted, with a capacity limited to ensure physical distancing (masks mandatory);
- Indoor religious services, rites and ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services with capacity to ensure physical distancing (masks mandatory);
- Outdoor religious services, rites and ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services 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)

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



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Testing and Self Isolation

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have come in contact with someone who tested positive, please get tested. Due to the increased demand with testing, there is a delay for testing and results.

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

- Haldimand Norfolk Public Health – 519-426-6170, ext. 9999
- 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

You can also reach out to the West Haldimand General Hospital COVID-19 Assessment Centre at 905-768-3311, extension 1113, to arrange testing.

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.

Contact Tracing

When the MCFN Community Health team is notified of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our community, an extensive contact 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. This process may take several hours depending on accurate contact information and this will take time.

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. Regular follow up takes place with the impacted household during any period of 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.

Public safety has always been a top priority for MCFN. If at any time, there is a risk to this, communication will be made with the Members.



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Vaccine

We are currently planning for our next Clinic. In the meantime, if you are able to get your third dose by your local Public Health Unit, we highly recommend you do so. As a reminder, the Pfizer vaccine has been approved by Health Canada for all people aged 5 years and up. MCFN will be continuing to office clinics for all age groups, as long as the demand is there. Vaccination is highly recommended as a means of controlling the spread and reducing the impact COVID-19 may have on a person.

If you have any questions about the vaccine please reach out to 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.

Registration with COVaxON

Community Health has taken steps and will obtain your consent at the time of your vaccine, to register you within COVaxON. If you have previously received your vaccine and have not registered it to COVaxON, but wish to do so, please reach out to the Community Health office and we will assist. The contact number is 905-768-0141. Alternatively, you can email at vaccine@mncfn.ca and a representative will follow up.

Please note, due to data entry staffing shortages, there may be a delay in getting your booster uploaded. If you have previously provided consent and the information is still not reflected on the Provincial data base, please email the vaccine@mncfn.ca email and provide your name, address, date of birth and date your vaccine was administered. We apologize for any inconvenience, but please know we are working hard to address this.

Mental Health Supports

We understand the mental health impacts the on-going pandemic can have on our youth, and all of our members and we want you to know we are here for you.

Please see resources below:

- MCFN Mental Health Worker Faith Rivers: Faith.Rivers@mncfn.ca or 519-732-5768
- Haldimand Norfolk Reach Services: 519-587-2441 x 350
- Six Nations Crisis Line: 1-866-445-2204
- First Nations & Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line: 1-855-242-3310
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868, or text 686868
- Ontario Mental Health Help Line: 1-866-531-2600

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



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