

COVID-19 BULLETIN

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

Issue 3 - April 9, 2020 - Global Pandemic Day #30

The status of the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is changing daily. Matawa is working to ensure that our First Nations and community members have the necessary information to safely and effectively deal with the situation. Bulletins will be issued on an ongoing basis. The following is accurate as of this date. Please also check our website (indicated below) and our Facebook page for other important information. Every person has a duty to remain up to date and informed, and comply with, the details of this evolving situation.

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS COVID-19 RESPONSE STATUS

The following First Nations are under precautionary measures, emergency orders and/or planned lockdowns: Ginoogaming, Webequie, Nibinamik. The following First Nations are under lockdown: Neskantaga (effective Mar 30) and with flight restrictions (effective Apr 8), Long Lake #58 (effective Apr 1), Eabametoong (effective April 1), Marten Falls (effective Apr 2), Aroland (effective Apr 3) and Constance Lake First Nation (effective Apr 6 and re-evaluated on Apr 27).

COVID-19 SPREAD IN MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

Eabametoong First Nation confirmed its first case on April 5. The individual is in self-isolation in the community and is improving. There are no other reported positive cases in Matawa.

COVID-19 SPREAD IN FIRST NATIONS IN ONTARIO

There have been 12 confirmed cases in First Nations in Ontario (including Eabametoong FN). The number of cases didn't change from last week but sadly, of the 12 cases, 1 died in Six Nations on Apr 8. This makes a total of 2 deaths for Ontario First Nations.

CHILD WELFARE - AWASHISHEWIIIGIIHIWAYWIIN (SOCIAL SERVICES FRAMEWORK)

We understand that evictions for non payment of rent are not happening in Ontario during this pandemic there are a few suggestions from us regarding this:

- Rent is still due and if you can, please pay it
- Some communities have added one time payments to community members use it wisely, buy food, pay bills, pay rent
- Increase in GST starts this week
- Increase in child tax will be effective this month as well

- If you do not pay your rent ,you will be in arrears and subject to eviction once the state of emergency is lifted
- Even if you are struggling to pay the full amount putting some of these additional funds towards your rent will assist you in the end
- Please keep your children safe by looking after their housing needs during this difficult time
- If you are on Ontario Works or ODSP please register to have your rent paid directly to the landlord

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

While schools and child care centres are closed, parents can apply for direct funding to offset the cost of buying materials to support their children's learning, while they practice self-isolation and physical distancing. There is no income cap to access this funding. Only 1 parent can apply for each child and the parent who applies should have custody of the child. Eligible parents will receive a one-time per child payment of:

- \$200 for children aged 0 to 12
- \$250 for children or youth aged 0 to 21 with special needs

This funding can help parents with the costs of work books, educational apps, educational subscription services, movies and other tools to support learning at home or distance learning.

First Nation parents are eligible to apply for this one-time funding by following these steps:

1. First choose: "My child is not enrolled in Public or Private School"
2. Then choose: "My child is not attending any day care or school"

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COVID-19 TESTING/SITUATION UPDATE

Health Unit	Postive	Negative	Tests	Pending	Resolved	Deaths
Porcupine	34	415	-	113	11	2
Thunder Bay	21	457	-	114	3	-
Northwestern	7	344	-	230	8	-
TOTALS FOR HEALTH UNITS IN MATAWA	62	1,216	-	457	22	2

DATE EXTRACTED - 12:00 PM April 9, 2020

NOTES: In terms of postive cases from our last bulletin on Apr 6, 20: the Porcupine Health Unit is up 4, the Thunder Bay Health Unit is up 8 and the Northwestern Health Unit stayed the same. In the 3 days between our bulletins, the totals for health units in Matawa went from 50 - 60 positive cases and from 1 to 2 deaths.

**Don't make a splash
Put it in the trash**

What is and is not safe to flush



NOT SAFE TO FLUSH

Cleaning Wipes	Grease
Baby Wipes	Oils and Fats
Diapers	Medication
Rags	Paper Towel
Feminine Products	Cat Litter
Cotton balls,	Cigarette Butts
Dental Floss	Coffee Grounds
Needles	Fish guts



SAFE TO FLUSH

Human Waste
Toilet Paper



Remember

"Flushable" doesn't mean OK to flush

Many "flushable" products **do not** degrade

Flushing these items can lead to sewer blockage and pump failure



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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidelines

Gather all needed equipment, ensure appropriate size and expiry date, and thoroughly wash hands prior to wearing. Have someone stand by to assist if required when dressing/undressing with PPE. Ensure all PPE is disposed in a safe contained appropriate waste system where it cannot be accessed by others/animals/pets, etc.

Wipes

- Do not flush any medical wipes down the toilet, dispose in garbage
- Use for hard surfaces only - not effective on fabric or skin
- Area must remain wet for directed amount of time to thoroughly sanitize
- Do not use if wipes are dry/slightly damp- do not moisten dried out wipes with water (reduces effectiveness)
- Always wear gloves when using wipes
- Use to wipe commonly touched areas only (door handles, light switches, stair railings, remotes, phones, etc).
- Do not use on personal care or food items

Masks

- Masks are designed to prevent droplets produced from speaking, sneezing or coughing that contaminate our hands or nearby surfaces
- Masks will also be effective to prevent inhalation of airborne droplets of a COVID infected individual who is in close proximity to yourself
- Masks come in three levels of protection: general, surgical or N95 - they also come in multiple sizes and styles
- Ensure appropriate mask is used for level of protection needed
- Ensure the mask is tight on your face, shorten ear loops and pinch nose piece to ensure it is as tight fitting as possible - masks are not comfortable
- Once mask is in place, do not touch the mask or your face until ready to remove
- Do not re-use masks between patients
- Do not use masks that are wet or damaged, replace if mask becomes too moist from ones own breath, generally only last a few hours
- When removing a mask: do so with clean hands, do not touch face, only touch the mask and dispose in garbage

Gloves

- Gloves are used to protect the wearer from coming in contact with disease or chemicals
- Our skin is the best barrier against infection and frequent thorough handwashing is the best defense
- If gloves are used: wash hands prior to use, select appropriate size glove, wear gloves only for one patient at a time and they must be changed between patients
- Gloves used for cleaning must be changed after cleaning one specific area
- Remove gloves if they become torn or damaged and wash hands immediately
- Remove gloves by not touching the outside as much as possible, and dispose in appropriate contained garbage.
- Wash hands immediately after removing gloves
- Use double gloves with any strenuous activity (e.g. carrying a patient or handling a dead body) or tasks in which contact with blood and body fluids are anticipated
- Use heavy duty/rubber gloves for environmental cleaning and waste management

Gowns/Boot Covers/Hats

- Gowns are used to protect the wearers clothing/shoes/hair from coming into contact with contaminated surfaces or airborne droplets
- Ensure gown is properly worn and have assistance with ties/wraps
- Wash hands prior to wearing and after removing
- Dispose in a contained garbage

It is recommended to remove and launder all worn clothing after contact with a known infected individual as gowns are still permeable