

COVID-19 BULLETIN

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

Issue 10 - May 29, 2020 - Global Pandemic Day #80

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/informed, and comply with the details of this evolving situation.

MATAWA OFFICE CLOSURE EXTENSION

Please note, office closures have been extended to June 30, 2020 (from May 29 previously) as a result of a Matawa Board of Directors motion. This may be extended if necessary. Our staff continue to work remotely, with the exception of essential staff and our phone lines are still open.

COVID-19 SPREAD IN MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

The last positive case in a Matawa First Nation to be cleared was on May 1. Aroland First Nation and the Matawa Health Co-operative will be putting in place a COVID-19 testing drive in the community during the week of June 1, 2020. Some previous testing (not part of the drive) came back negative this week.

COVID-19 SPREAD IN FIRST NATIONS IN ONTARIO

As of May 28, Chiefs of Ontario reported a total of 50 cases on-reserve (which is up from 44 last week). They report 2 deaths on-reserve and 2 deaths off-reserve; 41 resolved (on-reserve); 5601 tests conducted since Jan 15 and 809 tests done between May 18 - 25.

CONTACTLESS FOOD HAMPER PICK UP FOR OFF-RESERVE MEMBERS IN THUNDER BAY

On Wednesday, May 27, 2020, food hampers were distributed at the Matawa office in Thunder Bay. A total of 376 distributions with 350 hampers and 26 gift cards were provided.

TEMPORARY PANDEMIC PAY

In the first week of June, Ontario ministries will start sending funding details to employers that receive funding directly from government and service delivery managers.

Employers will receive funding for pandemic pay as quickly as possible - starting in early June, though exact timing will vary. Eligible employees will receive pandemic pay through their existing payroll systems.

Appropriate accountability requirements will be in place to ensure that funding is provided to eligible employees.

Eligible employees will receive temporary pandemic pay on hourly wages and those working over 100 hours in a designated four-week period will receive monthly lump sum payments. This pay will be provided retroactively to April 24, 2020.

Temporary pandemic pay is aimed at helping frontline staff who are experiencing severe challenges and are at heightened risk during the COVID-19 outbreak.

It is a targeted program designed to support employees who work in congregate care settings or primarily with vulnerable populations, where maintaining physical distancing is difficult or not possible. The goals are to:

- provide additional support and relief to frontline workers
- encourage staff to continue working and attract prospective employees
- help maintain safe staffing levels and the operation of critical frontline services

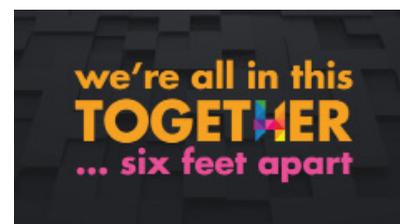
IN CRISIS?

If you are an adult experiencing a mental health or addictions related crisis:

- Call ConnexOntario at 1-866-531-2600
- Call Crisis Services Canada at 1-833-456-4566

If you are a youth 15-18 experiencing a mental health or addictions related crisis:

- Call the Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868, or text CONNECT to 686868



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COVID-19 TESTING/SITUATION UPDATE

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Health Unit	Positive	Negative	Tests	Pending	Resolved	Deaths
Porcupine	65	4,644	4,886	177	56	7
Thunder Bay	81	9,037	9,418	300	79	1
Northwestern	21	3,882	4,143	240	19	-
TOTALS FOR HEALTH UNITS IN MATAWA	167	17,563	18,447	717	154	8

DATE EXTRACTED - May 29, 2020 - meegwetch to the Matawa Health Co-operative for the compilation of statistics.

NOTES: In terms of positive cases from our last bulletin on May 22, 2020: the number of positive cases from all health units stayed the same. Overall testing went up 2,078 (from 16,369 a week ago). The death toll went up 1 this week with an additional death in the Porcupine Health Unit.

COVID-19 AND YOUR FIRE SAFETY - FOR OUR MATAWA FAMILIES (FROM THE MATAWA FIRE MARSHALS)



We wear the mask to protect our friends.

We maintain and test our smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms to protect ourselves and our loved ones from fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms monthly and keep them clean and clear of dust.

If you have a fire extinguisher in your house, check it monthly and keep it free from obstacles. It would be a good idea to refresh your training on how to use your fire extinguisher safely.

NOW is the TIME to PRACTICE your home fire escape plan. Get everyone in the family and our guests to renew our escape plan knowledge and where we are going to meet in the event if a fire happens in our house.

Remember once you leave the house, do not go back into the house.

If you are cooking, stay by the stove until the burners are shut off.

If you go outside to smoke, use non-combustible containers to dispose of your smoking materials. Wooden decks will ignite from improper disposal of your smoking material and you can lose your house and all of your valuable photos and belongings to this unfortunate mistake.

Remember: only you can keep our Matawa family from harm