

COVID-19 BULLETIN

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

Issue 6 - May 1, 2020 - Global Pandemic Day #52

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 OFFICE CLOSURE EXTENSION

Please note, office closures have been extended to May 12, 2020 (from May 1 previously). This may be extended if necessary. Our staff continue to work from home and our phone lines are still open.

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS COVID-19 RESPONSE STATUS

The following First Nations are under precautionary measures, emergency orders and/or planned lockdowns: Ginoogaming and Webequie. 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 extended to May 1), Constance Lake First Nation (effective Apr 6, re-evaluated on Apr 27 and extended to May 18) and Nibinamik First Nation (effective Apr 14 - intermittent days). Ginoogaming First Nation has proposed a lockdown from May 4 - 11.

COVID-19 SPREAD IN MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

There are no reported positive cases in a First Nation in Matawa. Some testing has taken place in a couple of road-access communities in Matawa with results to be provided this coming week. Thumbs up to all Matawa First Nations working hard to keep their communities safe! Let's keep up these important efforts to keep the virus out of the community.

COVID-19 SPREAD IN FIRST NATIONS IN ONTARIO

There have been 35 confirmed cases in First Nations in Ontario. The number of cases has increased by 10 since the last bulletin a week ago.

MATAWA EDUCATION UPDATE

Please note the deadline date for post-secondary students putting in their application for fall/winter funding has been changed to MAY 15. All new and continuing students must submit an application. The application

package is available online (on the Matawa website under education and post secondary services). Although the Matawa offices are closed post secondary staff are continuing to work. They are reminding post secondary students to send in their fall/winter 2019-20 term and winter 2020 term final marks. They are also asking students to check-in with them once every 2 weeks via email, telephone or text.

FOUR RIVERS

Closures to several large meat processing facilities across Canada and the United States due to COVID-19 has increased concerns over food security. Four Rivers recommends engaging in traditional food harvesting (ie hunting, fishing), and storing food from the land wherever possible.

COVID-19 THREAT TO FIRST NATIONS, INUIT COMMUNITIES GROWS AS IT EASES ELSEWHERE

(Excerpt from CTV News Article - May 1, 2020)

Even as the infection rate appears to be slowing down in most of the country and provinces are taking the first cautious steps toward reopening their economies, chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam warned Thursday about the growing risk to Indigenous communities. "I am also concerned about increasing numbers of COVID-19 in First Nations communities in several provinces," she said.



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COVID-19 TESTING/SITUATION UPDATE

Health Unit	Positive	Negative	Tests	Pending	Resolved	Deaths
Porcupine	60	1,253	2,055	617	43	4
Thunder Bay	71	3,523	3,756	163	51	1
Northwestern	17	1,175	1,926	732	16	-
TOTALS FOR HEALTH UNITS IN MATAWA	147	5,951	7,737	1,512	110	5

DATE EXTRACTED - May 1, 2020

MATAWA SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Updated: May 1, 2020

NOTES: In terms of positive cases from our last bulletin on Apr 24, 2020: the Porcupine Health Unit is up 5, the Thunder Bay Health Unit is up 11 and the Northwestern Health Unit is up 1. Overall testing went up 2,968. The death toll went up to 5 (from 4 last week).



RESOURCE FOR WOMEN LIVING THROUGH INCREASED VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AT HOME DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC HERE: <https://unsafeathomeottawa.ca/#about> or by texting: 1-613-704-5535. These features allow women to text or use computer chat for support when they can't use the phone to call a crisis line.

Counsellors are available for a secure online chat and text to provide emotional support, practical advice and referrals. They can:

- Talk about how you're feeling
- Create a safety plan to reduce your risk of harm
- Get you the services you need for support
- Cope with your situation during this period of physical distancing

Child Welfare/Family Support

1-807-630-7361 (Program Manager Cell)

The Matawa Awashishewiigihiwaywiin (Social Services Framework) provides assistance to families from the Matawa First Nations (both on and off-reserve) who are at-risk of child welfare involvement, have open files, or have had children apprehended by telephone support or using a physical distancing approach. It also supports families from the Matawa First Nations with Customary Care Agreements, Kinship Agreements, and advocacy in the same manner. It works with families from the Matawa First Nations to support them in navigating the child welfare system through prevention, planning and goal setting using community-based, culturally appropriate/responsive care models for children with a focus on prevention and family reunification.

Counselling by Telephone

Various Numbers or 1-833-600-8839

The Matawa Health Co-operative provides mental wellness counselling by telephone for Matawa members on and off-reserve regardless of location. Services and contact numbers vary as follows: Monday & Saturdays from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm 1-807-252-5392 | Wednesdays 8:30 am – 4:30 pm 1-807-630-2526 | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm 1-807-631-0831 | Fridays 10:00 am – 6:00 pm 1-807-632-5058.

Crisis Intervention

1-800-463-2249 or 1-807-628-3880 (Cell)

The Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin provides crisis intervention services for Matawa members regardless of location. Services include translation, crisis assessment/intervention, crisis counselling/de-briefing, outreach through existing counselling services, support to family and friends, referrals to counselling agencies and professionals, case management/case reviews and community awareness.

Mental Wellness Crisis Teams

1-807-631-1956(Cell)

As a supplement to Crisis Intervention, the Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin provides crisis and trauma counselling and cultural services for Matawa members regardless of location.

Nursing Support by Telephone

1-807-344-4575 Ext 2369

The Matawa Health Co-operative provides telephone health and nursing support for Matawa members on and off-reserve regardless of location from Monday – Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

Victim Services (VQRP)

1-807-631-1161(Cell)

The Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin Victim Services provides culturally relevant services to support victims, their immediate family members, and witnesses. The Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP) provides victims support in the immediate aftermath of violent crime, short-term financial support with essential expenses in order to lessen the impact of the crime, enhance safety, and meet immediate practical needs arising from the commission of the crime. More information can be obtained at: lwhitehead@matawa.on.ca

Violence Against Women

1-807-628-3880 or 1 807-620-4470

The Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin provides supports for women and their children who experience partner/domestic abuse. We assist women to contact women's shelters and can provide temporarily accommodation and basic needs.

