

COVID-19 BULLETIN

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

Issue 7 - May 8, 2020 - Global Pandemic Day #59

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

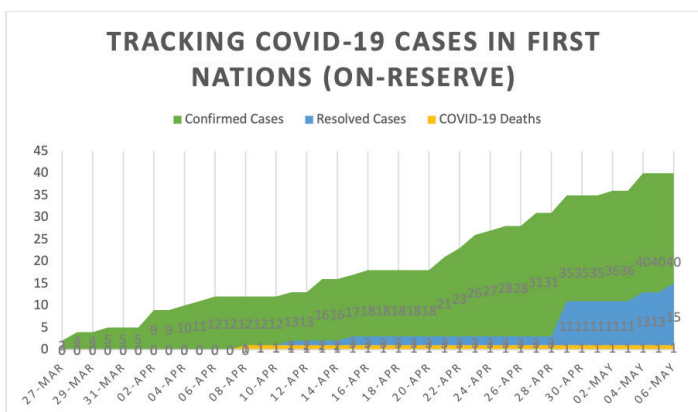
Please note, office closures have been extended to May 19, 2020 (from May 12 previously). This may be extended if necessary. Our staff continue to work from home and our phone lines are still open.

COVID-19 SPREAD IN MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

As a result of testing in road access communities a couple of weeks ago, one positive case was confirmed in Long Lake #58 First Nation on May 1 (and will be out of isolation on May 15). This is the second positive case in Matawa (the first one was cleared in Eabametoong First Nation on April 19 after testing positive on April 5).

COVID-19 SPREAD IN FIRST NATIONS IN ONTARIO

There have been 40 confirmed cases in First Nations in Ontario. The number of cases has increased by 5 since the last bulletin a week ago. The following is a tracking chart the Chiefs of Ontario has put together that show numbers continuing to climb.



MATAWA EDUCATION UPDATES

(FROM THE MECC)

- We continue providing academic programming and supports to students
- We continue providing mental wellness supports to students

- Teachers continue to sign up for various training sessions for distance/remote learning
- We have begun COVID-19 planning for next school year

(FROM THE PASS)

- We continue holding weekly meetings with Education Directors
- Resources continue to be gathered to support Matawa's educators and shared with them via Google Drive
- We will be holding 2nd teleconference with educators from Matawa schools to gather feedback on resources being provided and find out how we can further support the schools
- The first PASS radio show will be Friday, May 8 at 3:00 pm on Wawatay radio. This show will feature readings of books from our book translation and creation project. Future shows will feature story readings, legends, songs, interesting information, mental well-being tips and strategies among other topics.
- The Ojibwe Language Pilot Program has resumed using Zoom to hold classes

CANADA CHILD BENEFIT (CCB) PAYMENT INCREASE: CRA AND COVID-19

Families that are entitled to receive the CCB for April 2020 and still have an eligible child in their care in May 2020 will get up to \$300 extra per child as part of their regular May 2020 payment. This is a one-time increase to the May 2020 CCB payment for the 2019-2020 benefit year (July 2019 to June 2020). You will get the payment increase if:

- you have an eligible child in your care in May 2020
- you and your spouse/common-law partner (if applicable) have filed your 2018 tax return(s)

If you didn't file your 2018 taxes, you won't receive this payment. If you're late in filing your 2018 taxes, you should file as soon as possible. You may be eligible for retroactive benefits and credits. The only way to get these benefits is by filing your return. You don't have to file your 2019 taxes to receive the CCB payment increase but you should file them so you continue to get your benefits and credits for the 2020-2021 benefit year.

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COVID-19 TESTING/SITUATION UPDATE

Health Unit	Positive	Negative	Tests	Pending	Resolved	Deaths
Porcupine	64	1,253	2,729	277	48	5
Thunder Bay	77	5,442	5,519	279	68	1
Northwestern	16	1,741	2,799	1,042	16	-
TOTALS FOR HEALTH UNITS IN MATAWA	155	7,549	9,914	1,860	129	6

DATE EXTRACTED - May 8, 2020

NOTES: In terms of positive cases from our last bulletin on Apr 24, 2020: the Porcupine Health Unit is up 4, the Thunder Bay Health Unit is up 6 and the Northwestern Health Unit is up 0. Overall testing went up 2,177. The death toll went up to 6 (from 5 last week).

I'M YOUNG, CAN I CATCH COVID-19?

YES. Anyone can catch COVID-19.

While it is true older people are more likely to be severely affected, young people are not immune to COVID-19. As the virus spreads across the world, people between the ages of 18-40 are making up a significant portion of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. In Canada, new COVID-19 cases among youth and young adults are reported every day.

Dr. Teresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, says people of all ages, should practice physical distancing. Many young people who've contracted COVID-19 experience mild symptoms and can unknowingly spread the virus if they continue interacting with others. Young people who do not practice physical distancing put themselves and others at risk.

<https://www.virusfacts.ca/>

Mental Health & Addictions North COVID-19 Innovations

Covid-19 Release from Custody Task Force

The Challenge

In Thunder Bay, COVID-19 has increased the volume and frequency of people being released from custody. Without supports and accommodation, those released could be at imminent risk of criminalization, victimization and/or harm. There is less capacity in shelters and bail bed programs due to physical distancing requirements in place. Those from First Nation communities may not be able to return home due to emergency closure

The Solution

- Task Force meets daily (as needed) for 1 hour virtual meetings
- Ramps up existing discharge planning process and leverages four filter approach of the Situation Table to plan for the short-term
- Leverages established policies, procedures, database, training and non-disclosure agreements
- Referral sources: jail, corrections, police, defense counsel, NALSC
- Complementary Senior Leadership Team meets weekly to address gaps and barriers
- Thunder Bay Jail and Correctional Centre very engaged in the process
- Commitment of partners across the community leads to robust planning
- Reduces up-front risk for individuals by connecting them to short-term supports and services before their risk elevates, while also planning for longer-term arrangements
- Return to home community is coordinated
- Uses a Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle to rapidly test improvement

The Process

1. Consent obtained from person prior to release
2. Referral reviewed at COVID-19 RFC Task Force meeting prior to release
3. Four filter approach to information-sharing applied
4. Robust short-term stabilization plan completed
5. Services and supports provided upon release

Longer-term planning takes place including coordination of return to home community

For more information on the COVID-19 Release from Custody Task Force, contact:
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