

COVID-19 BULLETIN

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

Issue 8 - May 15, 2020 - Global Pandemic Day #66

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 29, 2020 (from May 12 previously) as a result of Ontario extending its state of emergency period. 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

Two positive cases in Matawa have been cleared (the first one was cleared in Eabametoong First Nation on April 19 after testing positive on April 5 and the second one was cleared in Long Lake #58 First Nation on May 15 after testing positive on May 1). There are no other positive cases currently.

COVID-19 SPREAD IN FIRST NATIONS IN ONTARIO

There have been 44 confirmed cases in First Nations in Ontario. The number of cases has increased by 4 since the last bulletin a week ago (see tracking chart at the below and to the right).

According to a recent 4th Testing Report from the Chiefs of Ontario (May 11, 2020), the testing rate in First Nations remains slightly higher than across Ontario: 2.5% and 2.7% of people living within and outside communities, respectively, compared to 2.2% in Ontario as a whole. It also reports the rate of positives in First Nations is less than the rate in Ontario: 2.6% and 1.7% of people living within and outside communities, respectively, compared to 5.5% in Ontario as a whole. It also says that the rate of positives is not increasing even with an increase in testing rate.

AWASHISHEWIIHIIWAYWIIN

- If you receive child tax benefit you should see a one time increase this month on the 20th of an additional \$300 per child
- Please note that even though evictions cannot take place during the pandemic we have heard from many landlords including social housing that they have the paperwork ready to evict for when

restrictions are lifted for those tenants who have not been paying

- The additional funds from child tax can be used to clear up arrears with your landlord
- Stable housing is an important factor in keeping your children safe

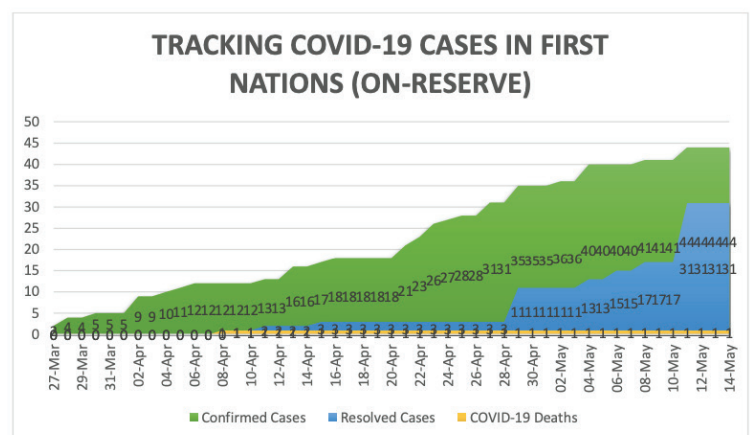
CANADA EMERGENCY STUDENT BENEFIT (CESB)

CESB provides financial support to post-secondary students, and recent post-secondary and high school graduates who are unable to find work due to COVID-19. It is for students who do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance (EI).

From May to August 2020, the CESB provides a payment to eligible students of:

- \$1,250 (for each 4-week period), OR
- \$2,000 (or each 4-week period, if you have dependants or a disability)

You cannot apply for the CESB if you already applied for the CERB or EI.



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COVID-19 TESTING/SITUATION UPDATE

Health Unit	Positive	Negative	Tests	Pending	Resolved	Deaths
Porcupine	65	3,774	4,113	274	52	5
Thunder Bay	79	7,413	7,644	152	74	1
Northwestern	16	2,028	3,279	1,235	16	-
TOTALS FOR HEALTH UNITS IN MATAWA	159	13,215	15,036	1,661	140	6

DATE EXTRACTED - May 15, 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 8, 2020: the Porcupine Health Unit is up 1, the Thunder Bay Health Unit is up 2 and the Northwestern Health Unit is up 0. Overall testing went up 5,122 (from 2,177 a week ago). The death toll did not go up this week (this is the first time since the pandemic started).



“The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a unique opportunity to get creative about how traditional events like long weekend fireworks, camping and ceremonies are delivered. I encourage all, instead of visiting your extended family and friends, to utilize modern technology such as calling or FaceTime to come together as a community, even when we are apart.

While, I would like nothing more than to celebrate Victoria Day long weekend, with family and friends, enjoying our communities together, as we usually do. Still, out of caution and an overriding concern for public health, this is not possible.

I want to thank the vast majority of citizens who are staying home and respecting physical distancing rules – they are doing their part to respect the advice of our public health professionals, to flatten the curve and save lives. I look forward to the day when we can safely resume our ceremonies and celebrations in-person.”

Ontario Regional Chief, RoseAnne Archibald