

# Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

19 A Complex Drive, P.O. Box 112  
Wikwemikong, Ontario P0P 2J0

March 17, 2020

## **MESSAGE FROM OGIMAA AND COUNCIL TO ALL WIIKWEMKOONG UNCEDED RESIDENTS COVID-19/ NOVEL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

This is an update on Wiikwemkoong's response to the Covid-19 virus that we all need to be aware of and to prevent it from spreading to our community.

Please be assured that our Wiikwemkoong Emergency Control Group is keeping on top of the latest information concerning the virus and how to best protect our citizens against it. To be clear, all measures taken by Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory are precautionary. **There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory or on Manitoulin Island as of March 16, 2020.**

Wiikwemkoong is putting into place measures based on recommendations from Ontario's Chief Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams.

### **EDUCATION**

On Thursday, March 12, 2020, the Ontario Minister of Education made an announcement that based on advice from Dr. David Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the experts at the COVID-19 Command Table, all publicly funded schools in Ontario would be closed for two weeks following March break, in response to the emergence in Ontario of COVID-19. This means that Ontario funded schools have been ordered to remain closed from March 14 through to April 5, 2020.

In conjunction with this order and keeping with the recommended precautionary measures being advised by the Ministry of Health, Schools, Childcare Programs and Recreation Centres throughout Wiikwemkoong will be limiting and suspending programming and services for an indefinite time period. We hope that by enacting these measures, we can do our part in limiting the spread.

**All our schools will be closed for students until April 5, 2020.**

### **ELDERS PROGRAMMING**

Senior's Programming provided by Amikook will be limited to transportation services for grocery shopping only. No social programming will be available through Amikook from March 17, 2020 until April 5, 2020.

***The Generic Transportation services and Meals on Wheels provided by Wiikwemkoong to local Elders will not be affected and will run as usual.***

Website @[wiikwemkoong.ca](http://wiikwemkoong.ca)  
Telephone: (705) 859-3122  
Fax: (705) 859-3851

## NAANDWECHIGE-GAMIG (WIKWEMIKONG HEALTH CENTRE)

The Health Centre will continue to offer services through our visiting providers (North East Manitoulin Family Health Team and Noojmowin Teg Health Centre). We will continue to screen all clients coming for scheduled appointments and will continue to provide home visits by our Long-Term Care and Wikwemikong Health Centre.

Any community member who requires lab work done at the WHC will need to call ahead to book an appointment with Charity. Please expect to be screened via telephone prior to coming into the WHC. The Health Centre will not be providing walk-ins for Lab Work until further notice.

## NURSING HOME

***There have been no visitations allowed since Saturday, March 14, 2020. All vendors will be screened before entering the premises.***

## TRAVEL

We are asking everyone to stay home and not travel unless it is absolutely necessary. A non-essential travel ban is being put in place for all staff and Council for an indefinite period.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

All residents are reminded that they should be practicing daily hygiene best practices in order to protect their health and the health of others.

These include:

- washing your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- sneezing and coughing into your sleeve
- practice social distancing as much as possible (avoid shaking hands)
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- self-isolate if you are exhibiting any symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath)

Council wishes to express that they have implemented these closures and changes in service as precautionary measures and based on the direction provided from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health to reduce possible spreading of COVID-19. While understanding that these measures will be a considerable adjustment to the families directly affected, they are important to managing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting our most vulnerable populations. At this time all programming will be re-evaluated on a weekly basis.

We ask families and visitors to please exercise caution when gathering in times of grief. It is recommended that we keep groups of under 50 in any gatherings, so please do what you can to limit social interaction.

*Council also recommends that we all follow our traditional values and teachings and use our sacred medicines such as cedar to purify ourselves and our environment, take only what is needed in the stores and share what you can with people who are in need.*

*We must all work together to keep our community as safe as possible!*

Currently, all programming and services are scheduled to resume on Monday, April 6, 2020. The situation will be closely monitored and should any changes to this schedule occur, it will be announced immediately

For further information, please follow the **Wikwemikong Health Centre** on their Facebook site or our website at **wiikwemkoong.ca**.

If you need copies of any information or packages regarding the virus, please call the Band office at (705) 859-3122 to request a copy and it can be delivered to you.

We will be updating you as new developments arise.

Miigwech



Duke Peltier  
Ogimaa  
Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory