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COMMUNIQUE'

KGCFS Emergency Response Team Notification to Key Stakeholders

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services (KGCFS) has developed an Emergency Response Team (ERT) in response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic. KGCFS is currently implementing several precautionary measures in attempt to protect the well-being of employees, clients served and community key stakeholders. The agency is implementing immediate and ongoing procedures until further notice such as social distancing, enhanced infection control, shifting to mandatory services (reduced service volume to essential services) and enhanced monitoring of employees' well-being. The KGCFS Emergency Response Team will review the situation daily and continue with regular monitoring and required communications internally and externally. KGCFS has also communicated the member First Nations pandemic plans and/or direction received to KGCFS employees.

Effective immediately, several screening questions as following will be posed by KGCFS employees when planning to meet face to face with a child, youth, family or community member (home visit, community visit or visit in the office). Each KGCFS office will also have a poster to ensure that screening occurs at the entrance.

- 1. Have you or anyone in your household been diagnosed or presumed to have COVID-19?**
- 2. Do you or anyone in your household have a fever, recent cough or difficulty breathing?**
- 3. Have you or anyone in your household recently travelled? If so, where?**

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, the KGCFS employees will consult with the Direct Supervisor in order to devise a plan on a case by case basis.

Furthermore, additional precautionary measures include the cancellation until further notice of various specialized services and all special events, direct large group training and large group forums. Effective Monday, March 16, 2020 until further notice KGCFS has also implemented a Work from Home Plan. This initiative is based on the premise of “social distancing” as a preventative measure. Service Managers will determine the number of staff required for in-office coverage for each team and team members will access to the required technology to complete such work. Remote case conferencing via *Skype* or teleconferencing will be utilized with community stakeholders where possible to minimize contacts, along with ongoing emails and phone contact.

An additional Service and Human Resources communication has been created and sent to all KGCFS employees per KGCFS Executive Management Team (EMT) and the KGCFS Emergency Response Team (ERT) direction on Monday March 16, 2020 to provide specific services direction. It is expected all matters are reviewed with each First Nation/s through the current protocols and consultation/service collaboration requirements including and not limited to such additional service areas beyond urgent child welfare matters such as current access arrangements, travel of children and youth between homes etc.

KGCFS remains committed to the priority of the health and safety of our children, families, employees and stakeholders with heightened precautionary measures during this time.

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services translates into “All of us, we are one,” and is driven by our commitment to delivering positive support to children and families through client-focused service delivery processes. KGCFS is committed to fostering strong families through its delivery by inclusion of First Nations cultural practices. KGCFS has three office locations (Wiikwemikoong, M’Chigeeng and Sudbury, ON) to service seven member First Nations and other First Nations within the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin. Please visit us at www.kgcfs.org.