

Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

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Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022

Council Approved Recommendations from the Pandemic Response Team

We are pleased to inform the community of good news. The outbreak at the Wikwemikong Nursing Home has been declared over as of February 22nd, 2022. Along with this news and after careful consideration with the support of the Pandemic Response Team and Naandwechige-Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre, Wiikwemkoong will no longer be considered in outbreak. This allows us to move into Step 2 of the WUT Easing of Restrictions Plan, effective February 22nd, 2022. Additionally, as of March 1st, 2022, we will no longer require proof of vaccination for all settings, including programming, events, and activities within Wiikwemkoong.

What does this mean?

The term 'outbreak' has caused notions of fear, panic, limitations, and restrictions on Wiikwemkoong. The definition had the potential to impose restrictions for a long period of time, and the term's removal allows Wiikwemkoong to continue to adapt and coexist with COVID-19. The term 'outbreak' will be removed from the WUT policies and plans related to COVID-19, including the Outbreak Section in the WUT Easing of Restriction Plan. The current Outbreak section will become Step 1 which will impose restrictions when the active COVID-19 cases overwhelm the capacity of our pandemic response teams.

Even though we are no longer considered to be in an outbreak, this does not mean that the COVID-19 pandemic is over. Public health measures such as: **properly wearing a mask, washing/sanitizing your hands, continual disinfecting of common areas/surfaces, physical distancing, daily self-monitoring, and contact tracing will continue.** We are strongly encouraging our **community members to get vaccinated, as it is the best form of protection from experiencing severe symptoms of COVID-19 and its variants.** Please call WHC to book an appointment.

Step 2 of the WUT Easing of Restrictions Plan includes:

- All public buildings will be 50% capacity and/or up to 25 people maximum
- Outdoor gatherings (non-sporting) of up to 100 people, no restrictions on number of participants for outdoor sports and leagues
- For all programming, events, and activities, the organizer must present a Safety Plan to the Pandemic Response Team and be granted approval.
- Regardless of vaccination status, if you are travelling outside of the Robinson Huron Treaty Territory, you are required to **self-monitor** for ten (10) days, and it is recommended to be tested seven (7) days upon returning to the community. If you develop symptoms after returning home – isolate immediately, and call WHC to book COVID-19 testing and speak to a nurse.

While we begin to 'open' in Wiikwemkoong, we must remain diligent in our efforts to keep each other safe. Please continue to follow all the public health measures and get vaccinated. Our pandemic response teams, including our community health nurses (CHNs) continue to humbly serve Wiikwemkoong. Please be kind and patient to our CHNs. The COVID-19 after hours are Monday to Friday: 4:00PM to 9:00PM, and weekends and holidays: 12:00PM to 9:00PM. When calling the COVID-19 nurse, please leave a voicemail with your contact information, and allow the nurses 48-hours to return your call.

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WUT Pandemic Response Team

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