

Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

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

Monday, March 21st, 2022

Council Approved Recommendations from the Pandemic Response Team **Moving to 100% Capacity**

We are pleased to inform the community of good news. Firstly, **Council has declared the COVID-19 Pandemic state of emergency over.**

Secondly, they accepted the recommendations from the Pandemic Response Team to change the vaccination rate threshold for the WUT Easing of Restrictions Plan to 70% of eligible community members 18 years old and older to allow programming, events, and activities to have 100% capacity. This aligns with our efforts to adapt and coexist with COVID-19. **All indoor and outdoor programming, events, and activities will be at 100% capacity.**

Thirdly, Council accepted the recommendation to **continue with mandatory masking in all WUT operations, including Administration, Education, health care settings, transportation provided by WUT, and for WUT programming, activities, and events.** However, for all outdoor events, activities and programming do not require masks. We are strongly encouraging masking to continue within the community. Wiikwemkoong local businesses could keep their own masking requirements in place if they choose to do so.

We understand that Ontario has lifted the mask mandate, however, the Pandemic Response Team, along with the support of Naandwechige-Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre will continue with mandatory masking in WUT settings as Wiikwemkoong is considered high-risk and we need to be diligent in keeping our community safe. Besides vaccinations, masking provides protection from contracting and spreading COVID-19. We will continue to assess the local and provincial situation on a weekly basis to determine when it is safe to lift the mask requirement for Wiikwemkoong.

We are encouraging our community to please be kind and respectful for the choices of other who may be determining what is best for them in settings where masking is an option and/or approaching this at a different pace. With the Omicron variant still circulating widely, we strongly recommend the use of masks and continuing with public health measures such as: *washing/sanitizing your hands, continual disinfecting of common areas/surfaces, physical distancing, daily self-monitoring, and contact tracing.*

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.

As we ease up on restrictions in the community, we would like to say miigwech to our Community Health Nurses who worked hard keeping us safe for the last two years. Due to these improvements in the community, it has been decided that the on-call COVID-19 weekend hours have changed to 12:00pm to 4:00pm.

Miigwech,

WUT Pandemic Response Team

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