



April 9, 2020

Aannii Citizens

We wanted to write this cover letter to go with Update #4 (see attached).

We know that these past few weeks have been challenging for all of us as individuals, as families, as business owners, as staff, as council, and for our COVID-19 Task Team. All the challenges, especially that of being isolated and not physically able to see your family and friends, can cause us to behave in a manner that is not who we really are as Hiawatha Citizens. It is in times like this that we must remember and practice kindness. Kindness to others, to mother earth and to ourselves.

As you aware we have been working in increments to close our Community to outsiders. We started with our HFN owned businesses and progressed to the Hiawatha Business Owners. All businesses in Hiawatha are now closed and we would like to say “Chi-Miigwetch” to all the business owners for their cooperation in working with all of us for the health and safety of our Community. We know that there were challenges with traffic, especially on the Saturday, and we once again would like to say “Miigwetch” to the business owners for taking charge with trying to control the traffic.

None of these processes have been easy and do take time to put into place, and we continue to ask for your patience and kindness as we work through these closures. Together we are stronger.

We know with this weekend being the holiday weekend, a time when traditionally we all get together with our families and friends, will be hard for all of us not gather and celebrate together. However, we cannot let our let down our guard at this time. Gatherings are the perfect storm of spreading the virus to many of our family members and friends. We understand how this can further impact our own well-being and mental health, we encourage you to have virtual gatherings, using facetime or zoom, and of course there is always phone calls and text messages.

As you may be aware the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases are increasing rapidly and projection rates are astounding, with 80,000 people who could become infected by the end of April, and 6,000 people who will die.

With the current interventions, we can prevent 4,400 deaths and lower the death rate to 1,600. This is why it is so important to increase distancing measures and community

closures – 1,600 people are counting on all of us to lower the anticipated death rate even more.

Confirmed cases in the province of Ontario from travel exposure is at 19%. In Peterborough the travel exposure rate is at 60%. This translates to, community spread exposure is lower in the City of Peterborough, County and First Nations than the rest of the Province. That means the measures we have put in place and continue to enforce are working. We all need to take responsibility for slowing and/or stopping the transmission of this virus, for the health and safety of all our Citizens, Residents and Community.

This virus does not discriminate, it does not care who you are, your age, your race, your gender, whether you are healthy or not. This virus spreads at a shockingly alarming rate. MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) took 903 days or 2.5 years, to infect 1000 people, SARS took 130 days, COVID-19 only took 48 days. This virus is killing people and it does not care who you are. This virus is using us humans as a method of travel to infect others. Many of us will show symptoms, but those symptoms will usually display 10 days after infection, meaning we can infect others prior to symptoms. Some of us may not show symptoms (asymptomatic) however still can transmit the virus, meaning we could potentially pass it on to our Grandparents, Parents, Spouses, Children, Grandchildren and any other family member we are in contact with. One of the worse thoughts, is that one of our family members become very sick and/or die, and that they would be alone in their final moments as family is not allowed to be with them in the hospital.

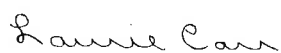
So please do not visit family or have family visit you that don't live with you in your household during this time. Any one of us can unknowingly pass this on – it is better to stay apart for now, so we can be with all our families later. **It is perfectly okay and the right thing to do to tell your family and friends not to come into your home at this time!**

To date, we still do not have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our Community and we need to keep it this way.

When this is all over, have big family celebration and together we will have a large Community celebration!!

We would like to acknowledge and thank you in advance for your cooperation, please take care of yourselves and your families, and please feel free to call me at 705-295-4421 should you have any questions.

Miigwetch,



Chief Laurie Carr,
On behalf of HFN Council



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Date: April 9, 2020

From: Hiawatha First Nation Council and COVID-19 Task Team

Re: COVID-19 Update #4 to Citizens

Aaniin Citizens,

As noted in Update #3 (dated April 3, 2020), we continually monitor the COVID-19 pandemic, we are making the changes needed to align with keeping our Citizens and Community as safe as possible.

Council continues with regular business and meetings by way of teleconference. Our COVID – 19 Task Team (see table below) are talking daily and meeting every other day to keep updated on local, regional and national changes and we will make the necessary changes at the Community level as required. We will continue to keep you updated through flyers, social media pages and through our website at www.hiawathafirstnation.com

Department	Team
Council	Laurie Carr, Cynthia Gray, Jeff Loucks, Katie Wilson, Kirk Edwards
Administration/Finance/Communications	Trisha Shearer, Amy Bickmore, Nikki Paudash, Eugene Bagagem
Health	Tina Howard, Lori Webster
Fire	Robin Adamson, Ted Bryan
ORRS	JD Monette

Action Taken (since our last update):

- **All Businesses in Hiawatha are closed.**
- **ORRS gas station will continue with the same hours of 3:00 – 7:00 pm daily within HFN boundaries. We continue to take all precautionary measures to mitigate risk (set up of hygiene station, disinfect surfaces/equipment on a continuous basis).**
- **Our boat launch and big dock (the “point” as we know it) is closed to the public. These will remain open for the use of our Citizens.**
- **Set up of Check Point Station.**

Check Point Station:

HFN has set up a check-point station at 881 Hiawatha Line. We will be asking for people to show their status cards, authorized user card issued by HFN (spouses). Other Residents will be asked for their driver's license and a bill (ie: hydro, telephone) for proof of permanent residency.

We will be making up signs for people to keep on their dash to help make the process move along quicker. We ask for your patience during this time as not all of our volunteers working the check point will know everyone, and it will take some time to work out the various issues we may come across.

The check point station is to stop seasonal cottagers, HFN Tent & Trailer Park seasonal residents, and for people who want to come and fish or just to visit.

NOTE: First Responders responding to an emergency call will not have to stop at the check point.

We will also be having regular patrols, however we need everyone's help to contain this virus, if you see people at their seasonal cottages or trying to get into the HFN Tent and Trailer Park, please call the OPP Provincial Communications Centre number at **1-888-310-1122** to report.

Health:

To minimize and stop the transmission of this virus we know that the following health recommendations are still the best way to slow and prevent transmission:

- **We minimize outings to essentials only groceries, pharmacy, etc.**
- **Limit gatherings to 5 people, keeping preventive measures in place.**
- **Have only the people you live with in your home.**
- **That people over 70 and those who are immune compromised stay at home.**

Still, the best preventive measures to avoid catching COVID-19 are:

- **Leave two metres (6 feet) between yourself and next person.**
- **If you have to cough or sneeze, do this into your sleeve.**
- **Avoid contact with people who are sick.**
- **Frequently wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.**
- **Avoid touching your face.**

Road Safety:

Again, we would like to reiterate the importance of road safety during this time as many of our Citizens out and about walking on the roads and/or in wooded areas.

We ask that those driving motor vehicles (car, 4-wheelers, motorbikes, etc.) to please ensure you are driving safely. Do not drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and please **reduce your speed** on all our Community roads **to 40 km/hour** during this time.

We also ask that people on 4-wheelers to be mindful when driving the trails/woods through the fields and woods that you watch for people who may be out walking/exploring. Also, please ensure you are not on or using people's yards and driveways as part of your trail.

If you see someone who is driving erratically, speeding or using your yard/driveway as part of the trails, please contact our Police Services at **1-888-310-1122**.

If you require police services and in order to ensure the safe delivery of services, for the Community and front-line Officers, the OPP is requesting Community Citizens wishing to report a **non-urgent matter** to **use** their website opp.ca/reporting or **call** the toll free number **1-888-310-1122** to reach the Provincial Communications Centre.

Call **911** for **emergency** use only.

Deliveries:

At this time, we are still allowing deliveries and you must call **Donna** at **705-295-4421** by 2:00 pm the day before your delivery is expected, so we can send this information to our check point station. We will need to know who/where delivery is coming from and the driver will need to give your address.

Construction:

Non-essential construction is not permitted at this time.

Garbage and Recycling:

- HFN garbage and recycling will continue to take place on Thursday.

In Closing:

If you need any assistance please call our office at 705-295-4421 and leave a message. We do have access to our phones and emails and will be checking messages regularly.

We will provide regular updates as this pandemic continues to unfold and we will make the necessary changes to ensure the health and safety of our Citizens and Community.

If you have any questions regarding this update please do not hesitate to call our Office at 705-295-4421 and leave a message for Administrator Trisha Shearer, or Chief Laurie Carr. We will be checking our messages regularly and return your message as soon as possible.

Miigwetch to each of you for doing your role to keep us all safe and healthy!!

“Our Citizens and Community remain our first priority and we will work to mitigate risks for best possible outcomes moving forward through the COVID-19 pandemic.”



May you have a wonderful holiday weekend and most importantly be safe and healthy wherever you are spending this Easter !!