



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Date: April 23, 2020

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

Re: COVID-19 Update #5

Aaniin Citizens, HFN Residents and OSM Residents

As noted in Update #4 (dated April 9, 2020), we continually monitor the COVID-19 pandemic, we are making the changes needed to align with keeping our Citizens, HFN Residents and OSM Residents (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):

- **Sustained set up of check point station.**
- **Food security completed.**

Check Point Station:

As you are aware HFN set up a check-point station at 881 Hiawatha Line, and we handed out green sheets for permanent Citizens and Residents of HFN and permanent Residents of OSM.

The main purpose of 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 from entering into our Community. It has been stressed by both levels of Government and Health Officials that everyone needs to do their part by staying at home.

Earlier this week, the Ontario government released COVID-19 modelling, which shows that the enhanced public health measures, including staying home and physically distancing from each other, are working to contain the spread of the virus and flatten the curve. However, emergency measures will remain in place to continue reducing the number of cases and deaths.

The modelling demonstrated that progress is being made in the fight against COVID-19, and that is due to those who are staying home and practising physical distancing. It was also noted that COVID-19 continues to be a danger, especially to our seniors and most vulnerable peoples. This is why we must remain vigilant with all the Health Officials recommendations to keep everyone safe and healthy.

In saying this, we will have our check point station set up until further notice, and we will continue with regular police 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.

Food Security:

Should our Community have to go into full lockdown, we have secured enough food for our HFN Citizens and Residents, and OSM Residents. Our hope is that what we have done, and continue to do, with preventive measures is working and that we will not need to use this food due to this pandemic. Our goal is to be able to use some of this food for all of to have a large Community celebration (when safe to do so), and to give to those in need.

Health Update:

Updated information included that:

- The wave of new community spread cases of COVID-19 in Ontario appears to have peaked.
- Outbreaks in long-term care and group settings continue to be a major concern.
- Ontario is now trending toward a best-case scenario rather than a worst case scenario and has significantly improved our position compared to the March modelling projections.
- Ontario has avoided a significant surge in cases, with the forecasted cases substantially lower than worst case scenarios projected by previous models.
- While several hundred new cases are documented daily in Ontario, hospitals across the province have not been overwhelmed by the COVID-19 outbreak, and the rate of hospitalization is declining daily.

To further reduce the number of cases and deaths, it remains critical that we continue to adhere to public health measures, including staying home and practicing physical distancing if they must go out for essential reasons only. We must continue to:

- **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.**

The best preventive measures to avoid catching COVID-19 are still to:

- **Leave two metres (6 feet) between yourself and next person.**
- **Cough or sneeze 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.**

We also have homemade (material) face masks available if you would like one to keep. These masks were made by our Citizens for when people need to go out for essentials. The homemade masks do not provide complete protection from the virus, they are not a perfect substitute to a medical mask, however they are to help from touching your face and provide cover if you have a cough from a cold, allergies, etc. Please call **Donna** at **705-295-4421** if you would like a homemade mask, and please wash before use.

Road Safety:

Again, we would like to reiterate the importance of road safety during this time as many people are 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.


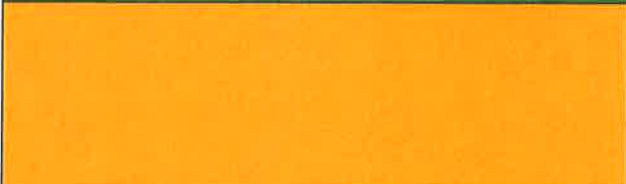

If you see someone who is driving erratically, speeding or using your yard/driveway as part of the trails, please contact our Police Services at **1-888-310-1122**.

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](https://www.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.

Window Signs for Safety:

As you may be aware, we initiated a window signs for safety for our Hiawatha Citizens. We have green, yellow and red. If you would like to be a part of this safety measure please use the paper provided, Place the coloured paper in your window to let us know how you are doing.

GREEN: means you are okay
YELLOW: means you need assistance
RED: means you are self-isolating

	You are okay.
	You need assistance.
	You are self-isolating – this is if you are choosing to self-isolate for your own safety, or if you have COVID-19.

Please place your colour on a window facing the road, and change as necessary.

Our police and others will be driving around Community to check for these colours, and we will check them daily. In the event of an emergency, the use of the coloured papers will also help any Emergency Responders know to be cautious upon entering your home.

We also ask people to check in with family members and neighbors who have mobility/health issues or may be on self-isolation.

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All Emergencies:

Call **911**

Deliveries:

At this time, deliveries are still continuing.

Construction:

Non-essential construction is not permitted at this time.

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 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.”