



# **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Date: April 3, 2020**

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

**Re: COVID-19 Update #3 to Citizens**

Aaniin Citizens,

As noted in Update #2 (dated March 26, 2020), we continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic, we are making changes as necessary that align with keeping our Citizens and Community as safe as possible.

Council continues with regular business by way of teleconference and will be meeting regularly via conference call. 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](http://www.hiawathafirstnation.com)

<b>Department</b>	<b>Team</b>
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
ORRS	JD Monette

**Action Taken (since our last update):**

- **Declared a State of Emergency – see attached.**
- **Put a “Shelter in Place” Order – see attached.**
- **Closed HFN Tent and Trailer Park – until further notice.**
- **Letters have been sent to our Lessees and the Lessors to make them aware that they are unable to come to their cottages until further notice.**
- **As you are aware our designated Hiawatha “reserve” boundaries intertwine with Otonabee South Monaghan (OSM), we have asked them to assist us in reaching out to their OSM Business Owners and Seasonal Residents. A joint letter was prepared and sent to the OSM Business Owners to close their businesses and Seasonal Cottage Owners to stay home until further notice.**

- **Been in contact with Hiawatha Business Owners – some Owners have closed, others have reduced their hours and put in protective measure/disinfection processes for themselves, their staff, customers and our Community as a whole.**
- **We have secured a cooler truck and will start to build a supply of food, as well as other supplies, should we have to take further measures.**
- **Created an information booklet to provide you with valuable information while we are all doing our part of social distancing and self-isolation during this pandemic.**

We will 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.

### **Closures:**

- **Our Child Care Centre will continue to be closed until further notice.**
- **Our Youth Centre will be closed until further notice.**
- **All activities, events, meetings will also be cancelled for April 2020. We will monitor and re-asses the situation over the next 3 weeks and determine next steps moving forward.**
- **ORRS store will remain closed until further notice.**
- **At this time, ORRS gas station will continue with the same hours of 3:00 – 7:00 pm daily. We continue to take all precautionary measures to mitigate risk (set up of hygiene station, disinfect surfaces/equipment on a continuous basis).**

### **Cancellations/Postponements:**

- **Our Annual PowWow will be cancelled this year.**
- **The 7 Grandfather Teaching Awards will be postponed until a later date.**
- **The Knowledge Keepers Gathering will be postponed until a later date.**

### **Health:**

We now know that community transmission is a significant concern as the virus isn't just being transmitted from people who are returning from travel. The most recent data suggests that at least 25% of people are asymptomatic, meaning they do not outwardly exhibit the signs of infection making it even more critical that we do everything we can to address the potential for community transmission. Due to this concern it is recommended by Health Officials that:

- **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:**

With schools being closed and people at home, we have many 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](http://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.

### **In Closing:**

**We want to acknowledge and give thanks to our Traditional People who are doing ceremony for us – we are truly grateful to you for taking care and watching over us and our Community in this way.**

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.

This pandemic has put such a hold on all our lives as individuals, as families, as friends and neighbors, and as a Community. Yet, we have seen all of us come together more than ever to help and support each other, and for this our Community is stronger. We will get through this together!

Our Task Team/Emergency Response Team and Council are so grateful and thankful to each of you for doing your part to keep all of us safe and healthy. Each of you are truly helping to make our lives easier during this time of constant decision making and changes for best outcomes for all our Citizens and Community.

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.

***“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.”***