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## *Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation*

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### **COVID19: Community notice on cottagers**

As we continue to respond to this unprecedented health emergency, we are asking all Kettle and Stony Point cottagers to stay home – in their primary residences – during the COVID19 pandemic.

This is a difficult ask. We value our relationships with the many people who come into the community to vacation and support our local businesses. Normally, we welcome cottagers. And we look forward to their return, when health officials advise it is safe.

However, during this COVID19 outbreak, the region simply doesn't have the capacity to absorb any increase in demand for health services, food and other supplies. Our request to cottagers is in effort to protect community members and health care workers. We ask that they respect our efforts to protect the health of our community members.

While the health and safety of Kettle and Stony Point members is top priority for Chief and Council, we are not alone in our request to cottagers. The Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association recently issued a reminder that essential services from hospitals to grocery stores in cottage communities may not be able to deal with a surge in population. Health units everywhere recommend avoiding all non-essential travel.

We have now seen the spread of this contagious virus into our community, with at least one community member receiving medical treatment after testing positive for COVID19. We are asking all members to act as though they too have the virus. In other words, they are asked to please stay home to avoid spreading it to others

Chief and Council have passed a resolution to ban all gatherings of more than five people who do not live in the same household. And those who must leave their homes are asked to practice social and physical distancing, by staying two metres (six feet) away from others.

Most community businesses are closed or offering limited services as members comply with these important health guidelines. We look forward to the day that life returns to normal and we can welcome cottagers back into the community.

Until then, we are asking cottagers to please stay home and stay safe.