



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

6247 Indian Lane  
Kettle & Stony Point FN, Ontario, Canada N0N 1J1

### Statement from the Kettle & Stony First Nation On COVID-19 December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

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**December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

COVID-19 testing results have been delayed, therefore at this time (as of December 23<sup>rd</sup>) we have 14 active cases of COVID-19 in the community. More testing was administered since December 23<sup>rd</sup> but the lab results are backed up Province wide. We have residents in self isolation and 9 of those cases will be resolved as of January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Impacted individuals were instructed to isolate. Public health is no longer doing contact tracing however, we will continue to follow the contact tracing guidelines when we have more staff available to assist with this next week. Any direct contacts are required to adhere to the instructions provided by our CKSPFN Community Health professionals.

The COVID-19 situation is changing very quickly. Omicron, the new Variant of Concern, is spreading rapidly and is currently the dominant Variant of Concern in Ontario. We are asking everyone to please continue to do your part to ensure our Nation is as safe as possible during these challenging times. We are all in this together. We anticipate that our COVID-19 numbers are higher than what we actually have confirmation of at this time.

#### **Holiday Precautions**

As we prepare to usher in 2022, please be mindful of the current public health recommendations, as it pertains to gatherings. These include the following:

- Consider cancelling gatherings altogether or gathering virtually instead, avoid visiting other households;
- If gatherings in person do occur, limit gathering size to 10 people who have received at least two vaccine doses from as few households as possible;
- For those who have travelled outside of the community recently, attendance at a gathering is not recommended.

#### **CKSPFN Return to the Office**

As a means of being proactive and keeping the staff, the organization and the community safe during this time, CKSPFN will do a "soft pause" in programming, and will return to limited services only, effective January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with a reassessment taking place prior to January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

During this period, please note the following:

- Kettle Point Day Care/Head Start programs will remain open. Hillside School will reopen January 6<sup>th</sup>. Additional information will be forthcoming from Hillside School.
- Necessary Social and Health Services programming, such as the Flu Shot and Immunization Clinics will continue, with enhanced COVID-19 precautions in place;
- All departments will remain open on rotating schedules. Staff will be scheduled to work some days in the office and some days from home each week. The staff that need to provide face to face services will be required to wear PPE for protection.



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- Payments to CKSPFN will continue to be made online or in person at the Administration building (front desk only).
- All offices will be manned by a receptionist between the hours of 8:30 – 4:30. Please note, the phones will go to voice mail during the lunch period of 12:00-1:00.

If you require other information or supports, we encourage you to look to our website and social media for relevant contact numbers and resources.

### **Public Health Measures**

As of December 19<sup>th</sup>, the Ontario government announced new COVID-19 restrictions due to the unprecedented spread of the Omicron variant. We are highly recommending you avoid any gatherings over the remaining holidays and the coming weeks to help keep our Community safe from the variant of concern.

- An additional Covid clinic will be added at Stony Point Date to be determined next week.
- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events gatherings are permitted for up to 25 people (masks mandatory if a distance of 2m cannot be maintained);
- Indoor social gatherings and organized public events are permitted with up to 10 people (masks mandatory);
- Indoor dining permitted, with a 50% capacity limit, tables limited to 10 people and proof of vaccination;
- All retail permitted, with a capacity limited to ensure physical distancing (masks mandatory);
- Indoor religious services, rites and ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services with capacity to ensure physical distancing (masks mandatory);
- Outdoor religious services, rites and ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted with capacity limited to permit physical distancing of 2m;
- Indoor fitness and personal training permitted, with maximum capacity of 50% (masks mandatory if a distance of 3m cannot be maintained)

APS is permitted to answer reports of violations of the above precautions.

### **Testing and Self Isolation**

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have come in contact with someone who tested positive, please get tested. Due to the increased demand with testing, there is a delay for testing and results.

Please contact the following Public Health Offices and follow their instructions:

- CKSPFN Health Centre at 519-786-5647.
- Lambton Public Health [519-383-8331](tel:519-383-8331)
- COVID-19 Testing results <https://covid19results.ehealthontario.ca:4443/>
- [1-833-943-3900](tel:1-833-943-3900) – For after hours or weekend queries please contact the Provincial Vaccine Call Centre or visit the [Vaccine Booking Support](#) site.

For 10 days after their last exposure, individuals who are fully immunized should:



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- wear a mask and maintain physical distancing when outside of the home to reduce the risk of transmission to others in the event they become a case;
- Self-monitor for symptoms daily and self-isolate immediately if symptoms develop.

If you have not received the vaccine, you still must self-isolate for 14 days. Please note, the CKSP Community Health Centre is not a Public Health Office, although it does assist with contact tracing and wellness checks for those who reside on CKSPFN.

### **Contact Tracing**

When the CKSPFN Community Health team is notified of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our community, an extensive contact tracing process will be initiated. Our response team will contact the individual or individuals and goes through a series of questions to and depending upon a few factors, on or off the territory, the type of contact (direct or indirect) with the confirmed case, the length of the contact, vaccination status of individuals and whether public health guidelines, including masking, hand washing and social distancing determines level of risk. This process may take several hours depending on accurate contact information and this will take time.

Consultation is made with the Indigenous Services Canada Communicable Disease Team and the Medical Officer of Health and contact is made with impacted individuals. Instructions are provided if an individual has to self-monitor or if they need to isolate and test. Regular follow up takes place with the impacted household during any period of isolation. Please note, that all steps will be taken to ensure an individual's right to privacy during this process and only in rare situations and thorough consultation, would any identifying information be released to the public.

Public safety has always been a top priority for CKSPFN. If at any time, there is a risk to this, communication will be made with the Members.

### **Vaccine**

We are currently planning for more COVID-19 vaccinations. In the meantime, if you are able to get your third dose by your local Public Health Unit, we highly recommend you do so. As a reminder, the Pfizer vaccine has been approved by Health Canada for all people aged 5 years and up. CKSPFN will be continuing to offer clinics for all age groups, as long as the demand is there. Vaccination is highly recommended as a means of controlling the spread and reducing the impact COVID-19 may have on a person.

If you have any questions about the vaccine, please reach out to Lambton Public Health Vaccine Call Centre at **226-254-8222** or a Member of our CKSPFN Community Health team will follow-up. **Please ensure you are always receiving information on the Vaccine from a reliable source to avoid the spread of misinformation.** If you have received the Vaccine, you still **must** follow public health measures, which includes social distancing, masking, handwashing and staying within your own social bubble.

### **Mental Health Supports**

We understand the mental health impacts the on-going pandemic can have on our youth, and all of our members and we want you to know we are here for you. Staff will continue to be available on rotating in office schedules.