



ATIKAMEKSHENG ANISHNAWBEK
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25 Reserve Road
Naughton, ON
P0M 2M0

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek takes proactive measures to protect the community in anticipation of the COVID-19

Naughton, ON, March 15, 2020 — Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is committed to the health and safety of all Atikameksheng community residents through this pandemic. In this release, you will find information on what Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is doing, what the Public Health Sudbury & Districts, Health Sciences North and Health Canada are doing to help in educating and keeping everyone aware of COVID-19.

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Band Administration Office will be closed to all visitors. All non-essential staff will be working from home, if you require assistance, please refer to the Essential Services List on page 7. This will be evaluated on a week to week basis. All programs have been cancelled for one month including the Library, Community Centre, and Early Years Program. This will prevent gathering as social distancing is important in eliminating the spread of the virus. The objective of social distancing is to reduce the probability of contact between persons carrying an infection, and others who are not infected, so as to minimize disease transmission. It is recommended to distance yourself about 6 ft. away from people.

Essential Services will continue in the community including Primary Care Services (Visiting Professionals), Public Works, Home Care - Personal Support Services, Patient Transportation Services, Garbage Pickup, and Family Support Services (Child Welfare and Protection). Attached is a list of all essential services and phone numbers.

To help families in the community, the Health & Community Wellness Department staff will be handing out Prevention Kits this week to Elders and families who are experiencing difficulties with obtaining supplies. If you require assistance for supplies, please contact Lisa Groulx, Home Care Manager at 705-692-3651 ext. 229 or Cheryl Thurston at 705-692-3651 ext. 234.

Elders Wellness Checks will be completed in a coordinated effort. Staff will be assigned to contact different Elders to see how they are doing. This begins with a phone call and progresses to a home visit if necessary. If you are experiencing more than the normal stress, please call the Lisa Groulx, Home Care Manager who will help in coordinating additional supports to you. It is recommended that Elders over the age of 70 years stay home. We are asking for families to assist Elders with getting items such as groceries, medications, etc. Our programmers will be assisting in this process as well by requesting a list of what is required and picking up the

items. We are hoping to be able to assist all who require help and thank you for your patience and understanding. If the need becomes too great for us to handle, we will be reaching out to the community in the future for volunteers.

Personal Support Services will be provided. If you are sick and experiencing symptoms such as cough, cold and fever over 38 degrees, please call Lisa Groulx, Home Care Manager at 705-692-3651 ext. 229 or cell phone at 705-561-0338 to advise and we will provide extra measures.

The Education and Social Services Department will be handing out Wellness Packages to each home to assist with family wellness. The package will consist of items from colouring books to suggestions for family activities, etc. Please expect someone to come to your home, if you are not home when they arrive, they will leave a note for you to give them a call.

It will take everyone in the community to consider safety for themselves and others. Please be reminded to keep yourself and others safe and stay home if you are sick. If you have a cough, cold, fever over 38 degrees and shortness of breath, **call HSN's assessment centre at 705-671-7373 between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, 7 days per week.** They will be able to advise you on what to do. If you suspect you have symptoms of COVID-19, call Telehealth Ontario for medical advice at 1.866.797.0000 (TTY 1.866.797.0007) or Public Health Sudbury & Districts at 705.522.9200 (toll-free 1.866.522.9200).

If you would like more information about COVID-19, please call Marina McComber, CHN at 705-692-3651 ext.225/cell phone: 705-507-0134 or would like to know more about the services Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is taking, please call Carmen Wabegijig-Nootchtai, Director of Health & Community Wellness at 705-692-3674 ext. 226 or Darlene Shawbonquit, Director of Education and Social Services at 705-692-3651.

Update:

One Atikameksheng Staff Member and One Community Member attended the PDAC 2020 Conference and have self-isolated and have been self-monitoring for symptoms. To date, both individuals have no symptoms. Individuals who have close contact to them were also asked to self-monitor and reported no symptoms. Incubation period is 5 – 14 days, considering the PDAC was held on March 1 – 4, 2020, incubation period ends March 18, 2020.

Primary Care Providers are essential services and will continue to operate from the Shawenekezhik Health Centre by appointment only. Primary Care Providers are; Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Registered Dietician, Occupational Therapist, Mental Health & Addiction Counsellors/Social Workers, Minobimaadizing Withdrawal Management/Recovery Program, Traditional Healer, Diabetes Nurse Educator, and the Physiotherapist. Home visits will be suspended until further notice. Services will be provided via telephone or videoconferencing as deemed necessary by the Primary Care Provider. Please see attached information for details.

A screening process will be completed with each individual requesting to see any of the Primary Care Providers. The screening has 5 questions that will determine if you can be seen by a Primary Care Provider or call Public Health Sudbury & Districts for medical attention.

**Withdrawal Management Program;
stable patients (Full carries)**

Appointments with MD: are scheduled to do their appointments over the phone from home monthly.

Samples: every two weeks

Semi-Stable -if patient dose is always the same but + for non opiate substances

Appointments with MD: rotated every two weeks, half of the patients will be seen one week and the other half will be seen the following week for follow up with MD. Appointments will be via telephone, if they don't have a phone it will be via OTN in the clinic.

Samples: once weekly

Note: rotating patient appointments will eliminate the amount of people waiting in the clinic which will eliminate risk of transmission. All patients who enter the clinic are screened and advised to wash/sanitize their hands, if a cough is present, they are to wear a mask and provide a phone number to follow up with MD at home after providing their sample.

Unstable patients: (no carries)

Appointments with MD: weekly appointments

Samples: they will be required to sample weekly unless immunocompromised we will have them come in once a week. For these patients, they have created a schedule, so clients are not coming into the clinic all at once.

Note: for the busy clinics with large amounts of patients at the clinic or in the waiting room at one time, they have advised that if there is more than 3 patients waiting to see the doctor, they will notify the lead MD or PA's to tend to that specific clinic to move the patient flow.

Please see attachments from Ministry of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, Health Sciences North for detailed information.

I would like to acknowledge the work the Little NHL Hockey Teams are doing by donating funds towards food and items for Elders and Children in the community. It is a pleasure to see our community come together during this time.

Contact: Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer
Office phone: 705-692-3651 ext. 201
Cell phone: 705-698-7050

Contact: Carmen Wabegijig-Nootchtai, Director of Health & Community Wellness
Office phone: 705-692-3651 ext. 226
Cell phone: 705-822-3462

Ministry of Health (MOH);

The DHCW receives updates from the MOH every few days, below is the latest information.

Plans to quickly initiate augmented **Telehealth capacity** with networks of clinical and broader public sector support to ensure that Ontarians can get the information they need quickly and are referred to appropriate screening and treatment options.

Advice on social distancing measures including:

- o **Travel:** recommendations with respect to non-essential travel and travel with children
- o **Mass gatherings:** guidance on restricting mass gatherings and other precautions
- o **Visitor and staff policies in health care settings:** guidance to enhance the screening of all visitors, staff, patients/residents/clients for all health care settings
- o **School closures:** guidance to the Ministry of Education concerning ongoing operations of public schools

After two and a half months of global clinical experience and updated scientific and epidemiological evidence, routes of transmission for COVID-19 reveal the following:

- COVID-19 cases and clusters demonstrate that Droplet/Contact transmission are the routes of transmission.
- The majority of cases are linked to person-to-person transmission through close direct contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted through the airborne route.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts;

Below is the latest information received from Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

As of March 15, 2020, Public Health announced the following;

Correction: The second confirmed case is a woman in her 60s. The age has been updated in the report below. Today, Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Sudbury & Districts Medical Officer of Health, is reporting that a woman in her 60s is the second confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Sudbury and Manitoulin districts.

This person was a close contact of the first confirmed COVID-19 case in our area," said Dr. Sutcliffe. "The individual has followed the directions of Public Health and remains in self-isolation at home where she has been isolated since being tested at the Health Sciences North emergency department on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

The hospital took all necessary precautions for infection control, testing, and assessment. Following testing, the individual was discharged home to begin self-isolation.

At this time, there is no evidence that the virus is circulating locally. However, this is a rapidly changing situation requiring that our agency, community, and individuals be prepared to prevent spread. Public Health Sudbury & Districts is closely monitoring the situation as it evolves at the local, provincial, and federal levels, and will routinely communicate information and what it means for our community.

Strict visitor restrictions are in place for long-term care homes and many health facilities, like hospitals, are also introducing restrictions. Visit their websites or call ahead for information.

On March 10, 2020, Public Health Sudbury & Districts announced that a person from Sudbury had tested positive for COVID-19. This person had attended the Prospector and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) 2020 meeting that took place in Toronto March 1-4, 2020. They know that several First Nations communities in Ontario had residents attend this conference and may be concerned about their risk of infection. Public Health Sudbury & Districts is conducting an investigation to determine how their resident became infected. If they identify close contacts of this case they will reach out to those people directly, or contact the Health Protection Unit if those close contacts live on reserve and we will follow-up.

Those who are not close contacts and attended the conference should monitor their health for 14 days since the end of their time at the conference for the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing (shortness of breath)

If a community member develops one or more of these symptoms during the 14 day period, please self-isolate (stay at home) as quickly as possible and call your local health care provider, public health unit, or nursing station for advice on next steps, and to determine if testing for COVID-19 is needed. Please do not arrive at a health care facility without calling ahead for proper instructions.

“Our focus is on breaking the chain of transmission to limit the spread of infection and as a precautionary measure, we are asking those who attended PDAC 2020 to monitor for symptoms for 14 days,” said Dr. Sutcliffe.

IMPORTANT: If you suspect you have symptoms of COVID-19, call Telehealth Ontario for medical advice at 1.866.797.0000 (TTY 1.866.797.0007) or Public Health Sudbury & Districts at 705.522.9200 (toll-free 1.866.522.9200). Be sure to mention your symptoms and your travel history, including the countries you visited. **If you are ill and must visit a health care professional, call ahead and tell them that you have a respiratory illness.** You may be asked to wear a mask while waiting for or receiving treatment to prevent the spread of illness. If you need immediate medical attention, call 911 and mention your travel history and symptoms.

At this time, the virus is not circulating locally. However, this is a rapidly changing situation requiring that our agency, community, and individuals be prepared for the potential wider spread of the infection in the community.

Visit phsd.ca/COVID-19 for information about how you can prepare for the spread of COVID-19, how to monitor your health, and what to do if you think you are sick. For additional information, please call Public Health Sudbury & Districts at 705.522.9200 (toll-free 1.866.522.9200).

As the COVID-19 situation is changing quickly in Ontario and Canada, please visit the website below to find up to date and reliable information.

Ministry of Health Ontario - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Public Health Agency of Canada – <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

COVID-19 Assessment Centre

As of March 13th, Health Sciences North (HSN) is operating a COVID-19 Assessment Centre in the North Laboratory 1 area of the Health Sciences North Research Institute (HSNRI) at 56 Walford Road in Greater Sudbury, 650 meters from HSN's Ramsey Lake Health Centre.

The clinic's purpose is to assess and, only where appropriate, swab people who may be infected with COVID-19 with a goal of minimizing the significant number of patients presenting themselves to the Emergency Department at HSN. This COVID-19 Assessment Centre **is by appointment only**. For safety reasons, **“walk in” appointments are strictly prohibited**. Not everyone who attends the clinic will be swabbed.

Individuals meeting the criteria below must **call HSN's assessment centre at 705-671-7373 between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, 7 days per week**, instead of presenting themselves to HSN's Emergency Department. The patient will give their basic intake information and will receive a call back from a clinician for next steps.

Individuals with general questions must not call HSN. Instead, please visit [Public Health Sudbury & Districts website](#).

Individuals must meet the following criteria for an Assessment Centre appointment:

1. Symptoms:

Fever (over 38 degrees Celsius) and/or cough (new or worsening)

AND

2. Exposure History within the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms:

- a. Travel outside of Canada
- b. Until March 18th, this includes attendance at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) 2020 conference in Toronto
- c. Had close interactions with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19
- d. Had close interactions with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 who recently travelled outside of Canada

There are two steps to be followed to receive an appointment at the COVID-19 Assessment Centre:

- o Patients need to complete an assessment by telephone and will be triaged by a nurse from HSN;
- o Patients triaged by the HSN nurse will be given an appointment to the COVID-19 Assessment Centre as required. For patients who may have difficulty presenting for an assessment, arrangements will be made for an assessment at home from an employee of the Greater Sudbury Community Paramedicine Program.

Sudbury's COVID-19 Assessment Centre, funded and approved by the Ministry of Health, is among the first to be opened in Ontario. It's the result of proactive and collaborative planning by a number of programs at HSN, including its Centre for Prehospital Care, as well as Public Health Sudbury & Districts, the City of Greater Sudbury and Ontario Health (North).

If you need immediate medical attention, please call 911 and mention your travel history and symptoms.

Please find attached a list of Essential of Services for Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.

ATIKAMEKSHENG ANISHNAWBEK ESSENTIAL SERVICES

HEALTH & COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Medical Transportation

Please contact the Health Services Clerk at 705-692-3651 ext. 221 to schedule your medical appointments. Please call you Physician prior to booking a ride, many of the Physicians are not booking appointments and if urgent, they are conducting appointments by phone.

Urgent transportation requests

(after hours, holidays and weekends) can be arranged by:

Darlene Geauvreau	705-698-6818
Amanda Wabegijig-Jourdain	249-879-1459
Medical Transportation Driver	705-691-7572
Don Paishegwon	705-692-1343

Home Care Program

Lisa Groulx	705- 561-0338
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Visiting Professionals are Essential Services and will be provided:

Kim Recollet	705-692-3651 ext. 248.
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For animal control, animal nuisance, etc. please call the Rainbow District Animal Control and Shelter Services at 705-673-3647.

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Michell Beaudry (from 8:30am to 4:30pm)	Family Support Worker	705-665-2603
Rhonda Stonepoint (from 4:30pm to 8:30am)	Family Support Worker	705-863-2015

To report abuse or neglect of a child, please call Nogdawindamin After Hours at 1-800-465-0999

PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Director of Planning & Infrastructure	Arvind Sharma	asharma@wfn.com	705-929-6035
Public Works Manager	Darin Migwans	dmigwans@wfn.com	705-688-4901
Housing Manager	Vivian Naponse	vnaponse2@wfn.com	705-596-2238
Housing Assistant	Michelle Elliott	melliott@wfn.com	249-878-3958
Asset Maintenance Worker (Housing)	Jason Nebenionquit		705-806-4130
Community Development Manager	Orsolya Csaszar	ocsaszar@wfn.com	705-507-9926
Lands Manager	Lori Richer	lricher@wfn.com	705-929-9085