



ATIKAMEKSHENG ANISHNAWBEK

Dear Community Member,

We are faced with a challenge that is unprecedented and we need your help to keep our community and our loved ones safe.

We are requesting your assistance to take proactive measures during this outbreak of COVID-19 by staying home. This is referred to as “social distancing” and is the only sure measure we can take at this time to protect you, your loved ones and our community.

We are also deeply concerned by the level of social activity up to this point. We believe that we can still take proactive measures but need your assistance to remain at home. We know that this is not possible for everyone but if you can, please take every measure possible to socially distance yourself from others.

We are also hopeful that we take care of each other right now by checking on neighbours and offering to shop for others if you must go to the grocery store. Or by sharing fish, wild meat or picking cedar for medicinal purposes with others who might be in need.

We are also trying to protect our community through the following measures. Please note these are not all the measures we are undertaking but here is a short overview (with more details in the flyer from our Health Department):

- We have closed the Band Office and Health Centre and accepting visits to the Health Centre by appointments only.
- Our staff is still working and can be reached via phone or email. Staff who have been identified as essential services will remain in the office but others have been asked to work from home.
- We have cancelled all programs, in-person meetings and travel.
- We are also taking special measures for our Elders by reaching out to each of them. Please see the attached flyer for more information on this.
- Elders can also call in to Lisa Groulx, Home Care Manager who is coordinating supports. She can be reached at 705-692-3651, ext 229 or Cheryl Thurston, ext 234.
- Please remember that if you are experiencing symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, you can use this self-assessment to help determine if you need to seek further care. It is available online at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-self-assessment>. And please remember, if you are having difficulty breathing or experiencing other severe symptoms, call 911 immediately!





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Further, we would like to take the time to advise the community that the regularly scheduled March 23, 2020 Band meeting will occur via video conference. If you would like time on the agenda, the next meeting will be held on April 6, 2020.

Since Council will not be meeting in person this meeting will NOT be open to the community as a precautionary measure. To ensure transparency, band meeting minutes will be posted as soon as we can.

We are in a position to stop the spread of this in Atikameksheng. Let's do this together, with love, compassion and understanding.

Miigwech,

Gimaa and Council

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