

Facebook Live Question and Answer session on COVID-19 Updates

March 18th 2020. Transcribed via the Otter App.

We want to say make miigwetch for joining us and bear with us as we work out the kinks on this.

So I'm Gimaa Valerie Richer and I'm joined by our CEO Brendan Huston, as well as our Director of health, Carmen. Thank you.

So we're trying our best to protect our community and there's so much information and it's happening so quickly that we thought this was a good way to reach out to the community and get a lot of information out.

So we're trying. I guess we'll start by letting you know. The first thing I want to do is let you know that we're here, we're listening to you. We want to answer your questions. So if you have any questions feel free to type them in and we've got Brigid, who's our communications person, assisting us she'll read those questions out to us. We do have some questions that we'll start with if we don't have any questions up there yet. And as well I'm going to ask, Brandon to lead off with some opening comments just to let you know what administration is up to and to tell you a little bit about our COVID response team.

So that that's where we'll start.

So I'd like to advise you that over the course of the previous few weeks, we have been updating our staff regularly, regarding the developments related to the covid 19 situation, including a lunch and learn last week, as a result of these developments we decided to implement a ban on exposure effective March CC. We felt that disclosure was necessary measure to protect our staff and mission community, and we continue to evaluate this office closure on a weekly basis. We will update the community accordingly. To ensure the continuity of operations we have implemented work from home arrangements for all non central service staff. We're fortunate to have the technical capabilities we have today to support our second document their work related responsibilities remotely, and updated staff contact list with their work mean email and work cellular mobile phone has been distributed electronically on our website and social media, and you will note that it has been posted on our band on building doors as well. For your reference in a further effort to promote our social distancing and to promote and protect the community health community as health we have counseled all tuition shelter programs for months, including the library community center, the early years program. I can assure you that

essential services are will remain intact including primary care services. Public Works home care patient transportation garbage pickup and family support services related to child welfare.

We've implemented this response team to evaluate and adapt our response efforts to protect our community, to ensure we have representation from key functions in the organization, team consists of our senior management group from all from our respective departments, as well as myself.

The purpose of this response team and the respective meetings is to regularly monitor the health and well being of our community to minimize administrative disruptions related to the COVID 19 situation, monitor daily updates related to the COVID 19 situation from reliable sources including our federal and Ontario counterparts adopt our response strategies as new information emerges develop and amend our business continuity plan as necessary development event or pandemic response plan as necessary. You can expect regular communications from the group as they will meet three times a week Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon. We are adjusting our response strategy and business continuity plan, as this situation evolves. I'm also excited to share with you that we did meet yesterday, and had a thorough discussion which resulted in the following outcomes and incorporation of our Kobe 19 information incorporation of COVID 19 information into our monthly newsletter, you can expect that to be incorporated for our April 2020 newsletter establishment of a protocol for regular communication updates from the response team, as well as coverage for ongoing community efforts. examples of that would be the little NHL team donation. That was fantastic implementation of a dedicated wall of dedicated wellness checks for our elders and those verbs, as well as the broader community development of a response plan to manage any potential positive COVID 19 cases. Currently there are no positive cases that we were aware of and it's a shame however we need to be prepared. In the event that there is a positive case. We have also discussed that have some outcomes related to rent deferrals for community members experiencing financial hardship, the development of a budget to track expenditures related to coping, COVID 19 measures. Housing, Community, the health and safety of the community is the most important priority at this time. We also plan to engage local businesses to discuss alternative business measures to protect our community.

In closing, I would like to say that we continue to monitor the situation. And I would like to thank our staff and particularly Carmen her staff for their continued effort to supporting the health and safety of our community. I really encourage each and every one of you to do thank your care providers and reach out to them to check in and make sure that they are well aware that we appreciate their ongoing efforts and I thank each and every one of you for your continued efforts in implementing the necessary measures to protect your family, your friends, families and community.

questions that we've already received and provide some answers to.

I'll start with the first question. So one question we received was will our band member, or will our band provide any support to our offers or members. And, second part of this was we've received a number of young mothers. We have a number of young mothers and fathers and families who may be experiencing financial hardship and emotional hardship, both on and off reserve. How will we be helping these individuals. I would like to say that we will certainly evaluate these on a case by case basis and I really encourage those who are experiencing these hardships to reach out to us. And we will evaluate these and respond accordingly, with the necessary supports, how you can do that right now we have Communications at wlfan. I encourage you to direct all questions and support requests to that email address at this time. We also have distributed an email list, and staff updated contact list. So I encourage you to use that as well to reach out to our staff and we will make sure that your requests are that we are aware of your question that we respond to your requests. But I also want to make you aware that we are going to be establishing a dedicated email contact for COVID requests and coding questions. I expect to have an update for you in that regard within the next day or two. So, again, I'd really encourage you to reach out and let us know. There's a lot ongoing in terms of the community supports. So, but in terms of your emergency requests or financial hardship, please reach out to us and we will do our best to support.

I'm also in the wellness health department.

okay so we're going to move on to the next question that we have. And that is, could the band look at some financial relief for people who are not working, and may not be able to meet their rental obligations. So what I like to say at this point is, yes, of course, we'll be trying to assist people as much as we can. Right now, I guess the best way to do that is on a case by case basis as we as people come forward and let us know that assistance is required, but counsel and I should let you know that counsel also is meeting every second day we're having regular conference calls and we reach out as required. And so we already have agreement in support from counsel, so that there will be the opportunity to waive rents for people that that require that. So, that information will also be going up but just let you know that is, that is happening.

Then on to the next question.

So that's number four, I think we've got that questions for carbon Don't be ready to permit. The question is, is there any wild meat left from the community salt that families could access. So, in preparation of this, I did call for resources coordinator she coordinates. She runs a while. Distribution Program. And with that, she has advised me that there are, there is normalcy. Because we've already taken. So with that in mind, I did speak to our land program offer might

knock offs. And we had this discussion of any wild move that we could do during this COVID 19 to be going fishing

and if there's anybody that would also like to recommend that you know we're not all gathering armor. If there's anybody that is going fish or in the wild, we

should also let you know that we're working on currency equipment is working on it through the bank, and we're hoping this is relatively new, but we're, we've been talking about the food bank we have some donations already as was mentioned some of our little NHL hockey teams, a huge request that was just so, so thoughtful. But we're looking at assigning our full time staff person to start running the food bank we know the food bank and temporary suppose and we know that that's a huge need so we're working on plans to release that to the bank. Now,

and during the steps that our staff are conducting. We have been something, a list of items that is required.

Staff will go shopping for those items and be mindful of the social distancing that they take photos for their safety, but they will be outside in the shopping and we will be delivering items as soon as we obtain them.

And so, the community also knows that the focus right now is really on the elders and people at risk. So that's who the first priority is and the shoppings happening for them. But, part two of this is also that Carmen is also working on a wellness check to the rest of the community and more information. Well, we're working on as fast as we can, that's that's jority of the because we've all been designated different sections in the community. And the majority of the responses today are a lot of them are feeling better needs have been met, they're feeling well and they're coping well mentally others, they have far, far too much their general needs aren't being met as well. There's a few that may have asked for a food item or the paper for fixed income families. They're asking more for different types of food, food, eggs, milk Pampers flour bread. Also, cleaning supplies and toilet paper. The remainder of the community is going to have to make those calls. So, each staff person we've established a database as well. And so, once they put that into the database. We're all given a big list, so we can share that database and see it in real time. And we will, we will have the update of what's needed, and people were called chocolate.

Okay, the next question is, many other first nations have closed their borders to non residents, so that the first nation can implement implement full isolation and limit potential virus transmission, will you be taking this step as well.

So, this is a tough issue for the community and I, I know some people aren't supportive of this.

And so we're, we're looking at it for sure we're absolutely looking at it. One way of course is to limit.

This is by closing the stores.

And so we've written letters to all of the stores earlier in the week asking them to take precautions and giving them some reference material of where they where they could go to for for further information. We're also undertaking going to be undertaking some phone calls to them, and reaching out to them to ask, ask them what measures are they taking are putting into place.

So I'm happy to hear that two stores have already closed today, I heard that lake shore to Lakeshore lakes you like you close and that they encourage the other stores to follow suit is what I'm told. I've also heard that top box shop, smoke shop has also closed. And I want to thank both of those stores for taking that initiative.

I know I think Andy's has a drive thru window that's open at the time, but I'm really hoping that the other stores follow suit. And that you also consider doing the same thing and closing your stores. And we're chipping castle we'll be discussing this further back. We're collecting information right now and seeing what the other stores are doing.

So the sixth question, or the last question that we have received so far. To me read it for you guys. Yeah.

So the local food bank. Again, we will identify someone to coordinate that piece here. However, the Sharpie thing is the circus American Center is open and they are five people at a time so they're taking their measures on making sure. So for on reserve members here. We've all established up to here in the call center. We've noticed the boardroom is quite small, so we'll probably utilize an area for that piece. Once we do have more information. I woke up updates with the bonus checks if you haven't received the phone call, or if you're buying something. Please call 70569236512 to one. So we'll get into our how services work, who will not to forward that information. So we want to see what that means we missed you. It might mean. We missed you, because we don't have your information. So, if you could just give us your phone number, we can reach out to you. Good, Yeah, you guys are the Communications at wl event.com there's a number of different ways it's free. So those are the questions we got in advance, are there any additional questions. So one question is, how do you know.

so what we've done is we assembled our customers. The client, which is Molina Macomber. We have been there for years she coordinates. All the visits with our facility professionals so that's the doctor.

So, with that information we are aware of the needs in the community.

And so from that information, we've established a list with that list, we've identified anyone over the age of 65, years old, with quote arm abilities, and that's a priority anyone over the age of 65 years old. I don't know if formal disease exists.

And we also have established another list of identifiers. under the age of 65 with form of entities and portal entities are any underlying health issue so if you have diabetes, heart disease, any vessel for illnesses.

Then I think that will compromise your immune system cancer patients chemotherapy kills loves to share. So, with all of that. This list of firefighters that list. If you haven't received a phone call please give us a call. sometimes not all members utilize the Center for their medical care. So we will not know that information so we want to set the call and speak to women in Congress and we all have our, you know, called privacy is very important to us and the follow up privacy laws, but a phone call, let her know your health condition, and this isn't shared with everybody.

Everybody who does, you see that this baby sign on both confidentiality and privacy.

So one of the things with the list also is that you're being asked how often do you want us to jump on. So for some elders or people who are compromised their health is compromised they might want a daily phone call somebody else might want a weekly so consider that when you are adding yourself to the list or that's one of the questions that will be asked of you.

And don't feel you need to be on a list in order to receive services or to receive help so maybe you're not on the list or you don't want to be on the list but you really need an item or you need assistance of some kind. So reach out to us and let us know what that is so that we can try to respond to this.

And on that trail, how do we access Meals on Wheels. So, we have switched off to the meals on wheels. And if we missed you. We apologize, but we can call the health services, the health center and we'll get to that. Lisa is working with Dr. Spock, and she is hoping for the whole duration. And as long as you know food is available.

We are so in that again we have the band Landis program offered the fonts. He is on the bush. He has already topped, I believe we have over, almost 100 trees or overall trees. I have asked him that some stop because that is medicine and such. Medicine.

So he is not in medicine section of that. And then the rest globe the maple syrup.

However, our contents are canceled. We are still maintaining our full ban but not to have anybody go out there and start helping. We still want to, you know, ensure the social distancing is in place. The only way that we're going to help called here is follow what the government professionals are advising, and so we are stance. Might may have his children with him, or help him, and he will give me updates every now and then also how far things have gone. And so even though might not need help in terms of the tapping the trees and the work he's doing so good idea to get a design. Yes. And so I'm encouraging people if you can get them signed go for a walk or do whatever you can do that work. I think the recommended distance is like six and a half to seven feet two meters away and you'll notice how we're far apart we're sitting as well. So encourage you to really get some fresh air.

Can you just repeat the topic, 705-692-2651, and then two one, or after the health services.

So, the trust is supposed to have emergence.

I got that question really shouldn't be directed towards the trust because I'm not really sure I know, versus align in the trust agreement that speaks to the health of our community. And so, just earlier today I did reach out to the trust to ask them if they're putting in place any measures because I think this would fall within the health definition that is described and it would be applicable to all beneficiaries regularly so hopefully I imagine they are working on something but we've reached out and we'll share with whatever information.

Our elders who do not have access to this data sets are so on the IRC

were so I'm hoping that people who are watching this can also share information with elders in your life, but we are reaching out on a case by individual individual to all of the elders.

And we're, and through regular updates of what they're asking for I'm hoping that that is going to be happening. Of course. Elders can also reach out to, to me, and to counsel and to any of our staff but that that's available there. That's a good idea in terms of the IRC, and we'll look into that and maybe we can figure out a way was a recommendation to put in place like a TV or computer I guess in that main room that others could watch these kinds of live streams or channels.

A lot of people do have cable. And I know that they, you know, there was an opportunity for our program to connect with health and for this one without euphoria out there.

I'm sure those who don't have any.

Yeah, so we'll have to take that into account as a summary of all this.

Yeah, we are working to ensure updates go out so in the fire fighting we're already working on, on content to that. And we're working on content for the monthly confusing fire newsletter the monthly one as well.

Miigwetch.