

Communique

TO: First Nation Leadership, Leadership Council

FROM: Chiefs of Ontario Health Sector

DATE: April 29, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Weekly Update

As COVID-19 continues to evolve, Chiefs of Ontario Health and Social Sectors will be providing updates concerning technical highlights and vital priority areas.

Health Sector Update: Information on Ontario COVID-19 Assessment Centres:

The Ministry of Health in Ontario is asking people who have symptoms of COVID-19 (dry cough, fever, difficulty breathing, hoarse voice, other flu-like symptoms) to use a self assessment tool first email link: <https://covid-19ontario.ca/self-assessment>

After you have used the self-assessment tool, call:

- Your primary care provider (family doctor, nurse practitioner, First Nation Community Health Centre OR
- Call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 OR
- Call your local Public Health Unit. For list of PHU's
www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/ervices/phu/locations

Many in First Nation communities are wondering how and where to get tested. Some hospitals, Public Health Units and/or the Ontario government have set up assessment centres that are in separate parts of the hospital, are off site, or are in drive-through trailers. This separation is to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19. The Ontario Health Coalition has compiled a list of COVID-19 Assessment Centres from trusted media sources and hospital and public health websites, A few of the assessment centres available in First Nation community members, as well as some of the testing criteria are listed below. Please note that information is changing quickly and please confirm information with the testing centre or local PHU before attending. For a full list of **ALL** assessment and testing centres where First Nation members can go for testing please visit: Ontario Health Coalition: www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca. A link to a map of all assessment centres is also provided in the above link.

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Akwesasne: There is a mobile testing clinic for COVID-19 operated by Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health. This testing clinic operates as a drive through site with appointments scheduled by the MCA's Community Health Program. Testing is limited to individuals who hold an Ontario or Quebec Health Card, an Akwesasne Status Card and reside in the northern region of Akwesasne. Phone number 613-575-2341.

Manitoulin: Assessment centres have opened at both the Little Current and Mindemoya hospital sites. Testing by appointment only. Please call 705-368-2300 or 705-377-5311 for their testing criteria between the hours of 9:00-5:00 pm every day.

Sioux Lookout: There is an assessment centre located at Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre on 1 Meno Ya Win Way in Sioux Lookout. By appointment only. Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 5 p.m. Contact the assessment centre at (807) 737-5880

Six Nations of the Grand River: Currently has a COVID-19 Call in Centre which can be reached at 1-855-977-7737 or 226-446-9909. Please call for more information.

SOAHAC-Chippewa

Effective April 23, 2020, the Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) will offer COVID-19 screening and testing to community members of Chippewas of the Thames, Munsee-Delaware, and Oneida First Nations. You do not need to be a client of SOAHAC to access the community screening and testing site. All testing is completed at SOAHAC, 77 Anishinaabeg Drive, Muncney. All screening is done over the phone with a health care provider. Call SOAHAC at 519-289-0352(8:30-4:30). This testing site is meant to support community members directly so you don't need to visit the emergency department.

UpdateTelemedicine: We continue to work with the Ontario Telemedicine Network as they develop a pathway to fast track access to Mental Health Supports for youth, as well as the OTN HUB Direct to Patient eVisit program via GuestLink to provide support for self- assessment and in-home remote monitoring. Stay tuned.

We remain committed to working together with all of you in keeping our nations protected, supported and embraced. While not possible physically, then with our spirit, as we do everything possible to combat COVID-19 and its impacts.

Be Well.