Health and Safety of Children and Wider Community to Inform Reopening Plans for Schools and Childcare Centres

Six Nations of the Grand River’s Emergency Control Group says the health and safety of our children and the wider community will remain the top priority as discussions around plans for reopening schools, daycare centres, and childcare centres continue.

The ECG has been working with federally run schools and the community’s childcare facilities to create a plan that is informed by each of their specific operations and realities.

Representatives from Ohsweken Public Health, Health and Environmental Health Officers are also being consulted on the plan to ensure the health and safety of children, facility staff, and the community, as a whole remains the top priority.

“We understand just how interconnected our community and each of our generations are, and that any decision we make about our children affects each and every one of us,” says Elected Chief Hill. “Our plan to reopen the institutions that literally shape and nurture our community’s future will be fully informed by all of the people whose main concern has always been the health, safety, and education of our sacred bundles.”

Although all options are still on the table, the reopening of Six Nations schools and childcare centres may happen later than those across Ontario may.

“As with each and every step of our pandemic response, we are not going to rush this process and any decision will not be made lightly,” says Elected Chief Hill.

The plan and timelines for schools and other childcare institutions will be communicated to the Six Nations of the Grand River community in the coming weeks.

Ongoing public health and safety measures currently in place under the second phase include:

- Mandatory 14 day self-isolation for any travellers returning from crossing the Canada USA borders, as well as contacting the Ohsweken Public Health upon your return;
- A limit of 10 people for outside gatherings;
- Practicing physical distancing in public places;
- Wearing a mask while in public spaces, especially in indoor settings and when physical distance cannot be maintained;
- Staying at home if feeling ill or experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath or fever), and;
- Keeping bodies and surroundings clean and disinfected, especially hands by disinfecting and/or washing them often and for at least 20 seconds.

If you or somebody you know is experiencing any symptoms, please contact the COVID-19 information and assessment centre at 226-446-9909 OR 1-855-977-7737 to arrange for a free test.

To report community members who are not committing to the mandatory self-isolation are encouraged to report these people to Ohsweken Public Health at 519-445-2672.

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