Safe Alternatives on How to Celebrate the 2021 No:ia during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Elected Council and the Emergency Control Group encourage community members to celebrate this 2021 New Year safely, and remind members that we are still in the midst of a global pandemic.

Typically community would be seen travelling from family members and friends houses on New Year’s Day happily exchanging No:ia fruits, cookies and donuts – however this year we must not become lax with the COVID safety measures or the potential for another holiday outbreak in the community could take place.

“It is unrealistic to ask the community to not gather, however not gathering and having parties is the only way to guarantee slowing the spread of COVID into Six Nations.” Said Elected Chief Mark Hill. “However if you are planning to leave the safety of your home, please make sure to bring your mask, hand sanitizer and physical distance as much as possible from others.”

“We need to normalize mask wearing, especially when choosing to visit in other family and friends houses.” Said Director of Health Services, Lori Davis Hill. “Mask wearing and hand washing will protect you and the others you are around. Protecting our people is the best gift we can give to each other this year, so we all must do our part to remain diligent and committed with our safety measures.”

Some No:ia COVID-19 safe alternatives to consider bringing in the New Year are:

- Host a No:ia virtual zoom party with family and friends (for those with internet access),
- Host a No:ia conference call party with family and friends (for those with phone access),
- Drop-off pre-packaged No:ia treats for family and friends to pick-up contactless,
- Plan a No:ia drive-by parade with your friends and family,
- Regardless of your No:ia plans, please ensure you are wearing your mask/face covering when around others not from your immediate household to Protect Our People.

Community members are reminded to also not drink and drive this holiday season.

Operations will resume Monday January 4, 2020. Members are reminded to call your service provider to check on availability during this time and if services that will be available over the holidays, which include:

- Six Nations Crisis Line (text or chat): 519-445-2204 or 1-866-445-2204
• Walk in Crisis Services or Call Six Nations Mental Health & Addictions: 1769 Chiefswood Road (behind the pharmacy) 519-445-2143
• Ganohkwasra Support Line: 519-445-4324
• Kids Help Line Call: 1-800-668-6868 OR Young People Text “TALK” to 686868 OR Adult Text “WELLNESS” to 741741 OR search online www.kidshelpphone.ca (online chat available)
• First Nations & Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line: 1-855-242-3310 OR search online www.hopeforwellness.ca (online chat available)
• Indigenous Victim Services: toll free 1-866-964-5920 (servicing Six Nations, Brantford, Hamilton and Cayuga Areas)
• Six Nations COVID-19 Information & Assessment Centre: toll free 1-855-977-7737 or 226-446-9909.

Ohsweken Public Health will remain open over the holiday season on non-statutory holidays. Please call 519-445-2672 as needed.

Let’s leave COVID-19 behind with 2020 – but in order to do so, we all must continue to do our part to Protect Our People! As a community Six Nations has done a great job in uniting in our pandemic response, let’s keep Protecting Our People. Happy No:ia Six Nations.

-30-

Media Contact:
Six Nations of the Grand River Communications Officer
clickers@sixnations.ca | 519-445-2205 extension 3238
1695 Chiefswood Road, P.O. Box 5000, Ohsweken Ontario N0A1M0