Long Weekend Sees Six Nations Community in Crisis Due to Surge in Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

Concerning upsurge in cases coming to fruition over the Thanksgiving Long Weekend. Concerns were ignored, advice not heeded and now Ohsweken Public Health has confirmed fourteen active cases and thirty-three probable cases.

The spike in cases are associated with private gatherings, members travelling from one gathering to the next which is very saddening when local public health measures stressed against doing exactly this.

Ohsweken Public Health and Six Nations Health Services staff did not rest this long weekend, as testing extended over the weekend and continues into this week.

“Our health care staff are exhausted, and contact-tracing is not yet complete. Health care perspectives and advice can’t be ignored; they are working around the clock to keep us safe.” Said Director of Health Services Lori Davis Hill, “We cannot selfishly ignore life-saving advice from them. They are becoming overly stressed as a result of community taking risks to gather.”

“Some members that attended gatherings are symptomatic but not seeking testing, placing the community at a seriously heightened risk of exposure.” Said Elected Chief Mark Hill. “Please get tested if you are unsure, it is better to be safe than sorry.”

Emergency Control Group (ECG) met over the weekend and are re-evaluating limits for gatherings, and considering moving back in the community’s recovery response with more updates forthcoming.

Iroquois Lodge closed to non-essential visitors at this time and will re-evaluate this precaution, with updates provided to residents and families.

It is now critical more than ever that, all Six Nations community members continue to follow the core health principles:

1. Reduce activities to essential only and not gathering outside of your own household,
2. Maintain physical distance,
3. Wash hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer,
4. Wear face covering, and
5. Clean/disinfect commonly touched surfaces at home and work constantly.

Visit www.sixnationscovid19.ca for the most current information.

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