Ohsweken Public Health Confirmed New Positive Lab Report Five Active Cases in Six Nations Territory

Sunday October 4, 2020, Ohsweken Public Health confirmed a new positive lab reported case of COVID-19 and resolved an existing case, leaving Six Nations of the Grand River community’s total active cases at five.

Currently Six Nations has two probable cases and three confirmed cases in the community.

A probable case is when a person(s) have been identified as having a high-risk of exposure (in close contact with a positive case, and symptomatic) but has declined testing to confirm, and are treated as positive case(s) by Ohsweken Public Health.

Contact tracing is underway by Ohsweken Public Health and each of the identified contacts has been provided with the appropriate Public Health guidance based on their level of contact.

*These latest confirmation of positive cases brings the total number in Six Nations (since the start of the pandemic) to twenty-two (22).* Since the pandemic began, the Six Nations COVID-19 Information and Assessment Centre has completed 2062 tests and of those tests, 1948 were confirmed negative cases so far. A number of test results are still waiting to be received. Due to the recent demand for testing across the province, lab results have been delayed due to a backlog at local labs.

Six Nations members are reminded that as a largely populated First Nations community, we are automatically at a heightened risk of contracting, spreading and fighting the virus for various reason such as lack of access to clean water, over crowded housing and underlying health conditions.

*The community are urged to tighten up social circles, and follow public health measures such as wearing masks and physical distancing with those who do not live in your immediate household.*

“Remaining vigilant with the core health principles and not letting our guard down will ensure we as a community continue to protect our people.” Said Elected Chief Mark Hill.

Thanksgiving or other plans for gathering with friends and family in the near future are advised to be reconsidered with the community’s rise in cases.

While community members are longing for life to get back to normal, we need to be extra cautious at this time, especially if you or anyone in your household is vulnerable due to being elderly or have underlying health conditions.

“We continue to monitor new guidance documents put out by the province and health officials,” states Director of Health Services Lori Davis Hill, “We are also constantly monitoring the evolving situation in our surrounding areas, and we encourage the community to do the same.”
To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, it is critical that all Six Nations members continue to follow everyday steps to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission and follow the below core health principles:

1. Staying home when ill or keeping your child home from school when ill, even with mild symptoms;
2. Maintain physical distance by keeping at least two metres from others outside your immediate household;
3. Wash hands regularly with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available;
4. Wear a face covering when in public places or when physical distancing is a challenge or where it is mandatory to do so and
5. Clean/disinfect commonly touched or high traffic surfaces in the home and at work to minimize the spread of germs and viruses.

Six Nations has also created numerous community resources such as the 4 part series “Skoden: Protection Against COVID-19” training videos created by Six Nations Health Services.

These free educational resources for the community to use are one of the ways Six Nations is closing the COVID-19 knowledge gap and can be watched online via the Six Nations of the Grand River YouTube channel or by following the below web links:

Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tP5MsJPDom0
Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYYULBn-inU
Part 3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhHkumBw5bM
Part 4: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5UuinOdVMg

Ohsweken Public Health are reminding the community of their responsibility when it comes to contact-tracing, a tool that continues to prove extremely effective in finding and containing the COVID-19 virus, but only when an infected person can list the people they have been in contact with over the past 14 days.

Contact tracing and self-isolation are not punishment.

The Public Health nurses are not passing any judgment on anything you have done, they are simply trying to contain the virus from spreading further, thereby saving lives.

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