23rd Case of COVID-19 Confirmed Last Night
Community Pressed to Rethink Long Weekend Plans

Wednesday October 7, 2020, Ohsweken Public Health confirmed a new positive lab reported case of COVID-19, bringing the Six Nations of the Grand River community’s total active cases to four.

Currently, Six Nations has two probable cases and two confirmed cases, active 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 are in the process of being notified with the appropriate Public Health guidance based on their level of contact.

“Thanksgiving is almost here, and one thing I am thankful for is how united our Community has become towards our fight against COVID-19 and executing Project: Protect Our People.” said Elected Chief Mark Hill. “We must remain vigilant in our fight against COVID-19 and save gatherings for safer times to do so.”

A COVID-19 disaster on Six Nations is only avoidable if all Six Nations Community Members realize the harsh, brutal, unforgiving impacts the virus has on other vulnerable Community Members - who can easily contract the virus by decisions to have large Thanksgiving gatherings this weekend.

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

As a community, we are all craving a sense of normalcy, but we must not let our guards down and remain extra cautious at this time, continuing to Protect Our People.

The latest confirmation of a positive case brings the total number in Six Nations (since the start of the pandemic) to twenty-three (23).

Since the pandemic began, the Six Nations COVID-19 Information and Assessment Centre has completed 2173 tests and of those tests, 1993 were confirmed negative cases so far.

Due to the recent demand for testing across the province, lab results have been delayed as a result of a backlog at local labs.

Community members who are waiting for test results are commended for their patience while they self-isolate until their results are received.
For Community members who received a test because they had symptoms, waiting for results in self-isolation is critical, especially if community members have been told they were exposed to a positive case - it limits any further transmission of the virus.

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 is only as effective as the information people provide.

Individuals are encouraged to consider ALL people they had contact with over a 14-day period since they started symptoms, so others can be made aware of their exposure and the virus can be contained and traced back to a point of origin.

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.

To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, it is critical that all Six Nations community members continue to follow these core health principles:

1. Stay home when ill or keep 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 and are urging the community to please follow the recommendations as they are meant to keep everyone safe from the virus during these trying times. Resources can be viewed on SNGR social media, websites, newsletters and local news print outlets.

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

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