COVID-19 Measures Increased as Six Nations Moves to Black Alert Level on January 18th at 12:01AM

Six Nations of the Grand River will move into the BLACK alert level of their pandemic response framework, urging all community members to avoid all non-essential travel starting Monday January 18, 2021 at 12:01AM.

Elected Council accepted a recommendation for the move from red to black by the Emergency Control Group at a special council meeting that took place on January 14, 2021.

“Due to the rise in case numbers not only in the community, but in surrounding communities combined with the recent provincial Stay-At-Home order, this tells us that we have to move into the black COVID-19 alert level to prevent any further spread of the virus and to protect our community.” Said Elected Chief Mark Hill.

The move to the black COVID-19 alert level means complete restriction of any gatherings outside of your immediate household, but permitting single-member households to gather with only one other household; a stay at home advisory to avoid all non-essential travel unless for essential purposes only (including but not limited to work, health care, and groceries); businesses are advised to offer delivery, curbside and other contactless business transactions only; schools and daycares will remain closed, along with gyms, the bingo hall, sports facilities and other personal care services; as well as designating essential workers only to work within all community workplaces, which is subject to the discretion of each businesses management.

Six Nations is working on a notice that will be shared next week outlining essential businesses within the community. Members are encouraged to reference the COVID-19 Response Framework online at https://www.sixnationscovid19.ca/uploads/public/files/COVID19_Pandemic_Response_Framework.pdf. This document was also mailed out to the community in December.

With this in mind, the federally run schools and daycares within the community have a new reopening date of February 10, 2021 which will be reassessed over the next few weeks. As well, the alert level black position will be reassessed on February 1, 2021 with further announcements made thereafter.

Community needs to be aware that surrounding hospitals are reaching capacity, and if capacity is reached, this will then mean elective surgeries, along with other non-emergency hospital visits will be put on hold.
The local Six Nations Police Service has noted a concerning amount of quarantine checks coming to their office from the Border Crossing Services, which tells us that members are continuing to frequently travel and cross borders. Cross border travelling should only happen for essential workers and compassionate family issues at this point in alert level black.

It is strongly encouraged that when members are travelling for essential purposes only, try to shop local within the community as much as possible. COVID transmission is rising and at critical levels in surrounding communities.

Six Nations’ transmission risk is alarming due to the nearby COVID hotspots that surround the Territory, and members increase this risk not only for themselves but the entire community every time they leave the Territory which is why shopping local especially now is more important than before.

Six Nations will remain in the BLACK COVID-19 alert level until the Emergency Control Group has determined that risk is declining and case numbers are under control, and will be re-assessed on February 1, 2021 with more updates to be communicated at that time.

“We are asking you to join us for what we hope will be one last push to slow and prevent the spread of the virus in our community.” Said Elected Chief Mark Hill.

Members showing any symptoms and wanting to conduct a Covid-19 test are asked to book online at www.sixnationscovid19.ca or those that cannot access the website may also call the Six Nations COVID Assessment Centre at 1-855-977-7737 or 226-446-9909.

More information on the measures under the Black Covid-19 alert level can be found at www.sixnationscovid19.ca. There, you can also find other health and safety tips for community members, businesses, and other groups.

Each Community Member must do their part by following the health and safety measures that protect against COVID such as frequent hand washing, constant cleaning and disinfecting of commonly touched surfaces at home and at work, wearing a face covering when around others that are not from your household or those who have symptoms, reporting symptoms to the community COVID assessment centre, and only travelling when necessary for essential purposes.

Off reserve community members are also encouraged to be diligent in preventing the virus from spreading. Staying home is the easiest, safest and best way to keep everyone safe from further spread of COVID-19.

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