

(Chief Mark Hill:)

“Scano, Sago, Good evening Six Nations Members.

Thank you Al Sault for having Lori and myself join you this evening to provide the community with this important COVID-19 Bulletin.

We come together at a time that sees our entire community in a state of crisis.

We are here because it seems some of our members here on Six Nations have failed to do their part in Project Protect Our People.

We are here providing this bulletin because lives are now at risk.

Now more than ever is the time when every single one of us must set aside our personal and political differences, and come together as one for the health and safety of our members.

Before we begin with our announcement, please note these COVID-19 Bulletins will continue to be provided to the community as we journey through our path of recovery from this pandemic.

Also noting these COVID-19 Bulletins are a separate communication from my Friday Community Updates, which will continue as normal.

Today I would like to thank and introduce our Director of Health Services Lori Davis Hill; who will be assisting myself to provide this evening's bulletin."

(Health Director Lori Davis-Hill:)

"Sge:no, Sago and good evening to our listeners.

COVID-19 is surging in Six Nations Territory, giving cause to implement these Community Crisis Bulletins.

We are looking to provide these bulletins to the community weekly or monthly depending on the severity of COVID-19 in our community at that time.

The bulletin updates will include importance information regarding COVID-19 and Six Nations."

(Chief Mark Hill:)

"As of today at 2:30PM, Ohsweken Public Health confirmed Six Nations 23 active cases in the community.

I am worried that more confirmed cases will be revealed from potential gatherings that took place over the Thanksgiving weekend.

As a result Six Nations Police Services are increasing patrols within the community."

(Health Director Lori Davis-Hill:)

“2385 tests have been completed as of this afternoon, with more booked later this week.

We have extended the Assessment Centre hours for community testing to accommodate this recent surge.

Six Nations is very fortunate to have a COVID-19 Information and Assessment Centre right here in the community, which we opened in April of this year.

Testing wait times are much longer in the larger neighbouring communities.

Currently there is significant community transmission present in Six Nations, which is extremely alarming.

I have said this before and I would like to note again, we must act as if we have COVID-19 and do not want to give it to anyone; as well, we must act as if everyone else around us has COVID-19 and we don't want to get it.

The surge in cases are associated with private gatherings within the community.

We need the community to understand how serious this is.

Our Public Health and Health Services are stretched extremely thin, and without them, it will be that much more difficult to Protect Our People.

We must not forget our health care workers throughout COVID-19.

If you have symptoms just be safe and call the Assessment Centre, don't wait, don't hesitate – just call.”

(Chief Mark Hill:)

“I want to take the time now to address the young people in our community.

Each of our young people have a vital role to play in the community's recovery from COVID-19.

Our youth need to make smarter and safer decisions when leaving your home.

Yes, I know it is really hard not being able to socialize, but we are pleading you to reconsider all plans to gather, for the sake of your Grandma, Grandpa, other Community Elders and the most vulnerable people in our community.

What would be worse?

Not being able to socialize with your friends for now; seeing your family suffer through COVID-19; or even worse attending funerals.

I want each of our young people listening to really consider this message, we know there is significant transmission of COVID-19 within the younger demographic and are calling upon our youth to be leaders

through this pandemic by making safer and smarter choices.

Just say no to gatherings, which is the smartest decision to make at this time.”

(Health Director Lori Davis-Hill:)

“The Emergency Control Group are re-evaluating limits for gatherings and other COVID-19 restrictions.

There is even consideration to moving back from our current Stage 2.5.

As a precaution, non-essential visitors to Iroquois Lodge are not permitted at this time.

The team at Iroquois Lodge are working with residents and families to provide regular updates on restrictions.

The easiest and smartest thing each community member can do at this time is to rethink attending gatherings with other households.

Let me please repeat, community transmission is here in Six Nations and is very serious.

For those who do not know what community transmission is, it is when there is no clear source where COVID-19 originated from.

For members wanting to book a COVID-19 test please call the Six Nations COVID-19 Info. & Assessment Centre toll free at 1-855-977-7737 or locally at 226-446-9909.

The Assessment Centre team extending testing throughout the week to accommodate the increased demand, and are working non stop so please be patient with them while they continue to work through the backlog.”

(Chief Mark Hill:)

“It needs to be stressed to the community that planning and attending gatherings at this time is not a wise decision, especially with the rise in cases in our community.

As a community, we must tighten up social circles, and follow public health measures such as wearing masks, washing hands, and physical distancing with those who do not live in your immediate household.

We are also working to share stories from community members who have recovered from COVID-19.

Our first community interview will be aired on CKRZ and Jukasa radio stations this Friday morning starting at 11AM.”

(Health Director Lori Davis-Hill:)

“I want to take the time now remind the community of their responsibility when it comes to contact tracing, which is only as effective as the information people provide.

If you cannot recall who you have been in contact with over the past 14 days, you are overdoing your exposure and must rethink your activities.

We must now more than ever follow the Core Health Principles, which are:

- Staying home when ill even with mild symptoms;
- Only leaving your household for essential purposes;
- Maintain physical distance from others outside your immediate household;
- as well only gatherings with those within your household;
- Clean hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitizer;
- Wear a face covering when in public places, and
- Clean/disinfect commonly touched surfaces in the home and at work constantly.”

(Chief Mark Hill:)

'Within the community we've been made aware of discussions around re-establishing checkpoints around Six Nations; please note the checkpoints will not be implemented at this time.

We are pleading with local businesses to ramp up health and safety implementations, and conduct screening for everyone entering your business establishment.

Reminder on this piece that we do have a COVID-19 hotline for businesses that can be reached at 519-750-4908 for any additional support.

We are also pleading to any visitors coming to our Territory for any shopping or recreational purposes, to please respect our COVID-19 measures that are in place.

14-day self-isolation is still in effect for those community members returning home from travelling across the border, and those directed by Public Health to do so.

Any person or home under self-isolation should not receive any visitors.”

(Health Director Lori Davis-Hill:)

“We must also be cautious of nearby hot spot areas that are growing in case numbers as well.

Those areas include Toronto, Peel Region, Ottawa and most recently Hamilton.

We strongly encourage members to not travel to those hotspot areas, unless absolutely necessary.”

(Chief Mark Hill:)

“Thank you everyone for taking the time to listen to our first Emergency COVID-19 Community Crisis Bulletin.

Please watch our Social Media and Website for further information and updates.

Until then we must continue to remain vigilant in our fight against COVID-19 and save gatherings for safer times to do so.

Stay safe, stay healthy and take care of each other.

NYA:WEH THANK YOU”