Six Nations of the Grand River’s (SNGR) Emergency Control Group (ECG) started meeting January 30, 2020 shortly after Ontario confirmed its first case of novel coronavirus on January 25, 2020. Meetings were focused around preparations to implement SNGR Pandemic Response. This Advisory Committee to the SNGR Elected Council is made up of organizations within the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, working together to reduce the risks posed by community spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 in our community. With the ultimate goal encompassed around Project: Protect Our People.

ECG Member List:

Arliss Skye, Director of Social Services

Beverly Petheram, Director of Human Resources

Candace Lee Lickers, Communications Officer

Crystal Burning, Portfolio Lead, Six Nations COVID-19 Information and Assessment Centre

Crystal Farmer, Assistant to the Fire Chief, Six Nations Fire and Emergency Services

Darren Montour, Chief of Police, Six Nations Police Services

Darrin Jamieson, Senior Administrative Officer

Dave Smoke, Deputy Chief, Six Nations Police Services

David Skye, Manager of Six Nations Paramedic Services

Dereck Manitowabi, District Fire Chief, Six Nations Fire and Emergency Services

Dereck Wharrie, Paramedic Services Supervisor

Josh Jamieson, Deputy Chief of Paramedic Services

Lacey VanEvery, Public Health Nurse in Charge, Ohsweken (Gane Yohs) Health Centre

Laura Beaver, ECG Recorder, Public Works

Linda Bomberry, Public Health Nurse Alternate, Ohsweken (Gane Yohs) Health Centre

Lori Davis Hill, Director of Health Services

Mark Hill, 58th Elected Chief

Michael Montour, Director of Public Works

Michelle Bomberry, 58th Elected Councillor (second alternate to the Elected Chief)

Natachia Slezsak, Crisis Response Coordinator

Nathan Wright, 58th Elected Councillor (first alternate to the Elected Chief)

Samson Kahiya, Finance Manager

Trudy Smith, Director of Finance

Vince Martin, Deputy Fire Chief Alternate, Six Nations Fire and Emergency Services
Moving into the 9th month into our COVID-19 pandemic journey, the ECG can proudly say that the way the community has come together to fight the spread of COVID-19 in our community is amazing. We as a community have kept COVID-19 cases at low levels throughout the summer. Working together (apart) to save lives, protecting our people and the integrity and capacity of our Ohsweken Public Health Gane Yohs Health Centre, and all other front line workers. We must keep this response going! The health, safety and well-being of all people within our community remain top priority for all of us.
Throughout the ECGs pandemic response numerous health and safety measures were implemented for Six Nations of the Grand River. These include;

- issuing of travel precautions,
- education towards prevention measures and patient care,
- regular community update recognizing symptoms of the virus,
- ramped-up public health outreach,
- declaring SNGR Community Emergency on March 13th with the closing of schools, public facilities such as Parks and Recreation,
- the suspension of Public Works fees such as sewer, septic and water,
- restricting access to the Long Term Care facilities within the community,
- the implementation of a pandemic pay increase,
- issuance travel advisory cautioning community members against non-essential travel and the need to self-isolate upon return from travelling,
- the implementation of a COVID-19 specific website, Facebook and Twitter accounts for SNGR,
- implementation of Project: Protect Our People with restricted access into the Territory from outside visitors with checkpoint and vehicle ID systems implemented,
- launching a COVID-19 Information and Assessment Centre within the community to provide members with a drive-thru testing site (by appointment only) and to answer questions,
- regular testing of all Long Term Care residents and staff members,
- launching of our SNGR Health Services Director COVID-19 specific YouTube podcast,
- launching of weekly Elected Chief COVID-19 radio updates,
- distribution of laptops and data sticks to allow for SNGR students to continue their educational pathways during the Pandemic virtually at home,
- creation and implementation of healthcare guidelines for farmers and temporary migrant workers,
- creation of funeral protocols guidance document for community members grieving during the pandemic,
- launching of a COVID-19 donation fund and small business relief fund,
- Providing the community with free cloth face coverings at a contactless location every Friday, and
- The implementation of regular ECG updates provided to the community. This is our first update to the community.
Meeting Updates

ECG continue with weekly meetings with strategic planning and constant monitoring of the pandemic response in our community, and surrounding communities in preparation for a potential second wave of COVID-19.

ECG is currently responding to the surge in cases by being proactive in our pandemic response with the community Assessment Centre by sticking to strict by-appointment bookings for community members only and extending testing appointments to fit the demand.

ECG is currently evaluating the inventory levels for PPE and ensuring a healthy stock is on hand for our healthcare professionals, first responders and other services providers that require additional PPE to provide services safely to the community. As well providing free cloth face coverings to community members since August, every Friday’s at Veterans Park with contactless pick-up.

ECG will not be exploring the implementation of Check-Points within the community at this time. Incumbent for each community members, we must continue to be mindful when leaving the community and conduct risk assessments when considering plans to leave. Situation will continue to be diligently monitored and updates will be provided through these community notices.

PROJECT: PROTECT OUR PEOPLE
PROTECTION, PREVENTION, RESPECT
Recovery Stage Updates

ECG continue to remain cautious by deciding to remain within the second stage of the pandemic recovery response, edging closer to a stage 3 by implementing stage 2.5 STOODIS.

Stage 2.5 provides guidance to more businesses regarding their recovery plans, and permits larger private gatherings that do not exceed 10 people in doors and 25 people out doors.

School Updates

With students returning to school, a number of safety measures have been implemented. Such as:

- the cancelling of in-class room learning,
- moving the delivery of programs over virtual or workbook means,
- providing students with laptops and data sticks for students opting to learn via online,
- continuous monitoring of surrounding district school boards,
- providing free testing to our community members should they become concerned with their health or feel ill.

ECG continue to monitor surrounding District School Boards and are working to formulate a customized plan for children going back to... school, based on guidance documents received from the Ministry of Health Ontario.

The ECG are currently working with and evaluating Ohsweken Public Health’s surveillance tools, analyzing how to revise this tool for the SNGR Federal Schools and private schools to ensure it is appropriate for this pandemic, and working at optimal levels.

With students attending school off-reserve, ECG is closely monitoring the stats of surrounding school boards, working with the Federals Schools to ensure communication channels are operating to inform when positive cases occur, continuous education targeted towards all levels of students, parents and general community on modeling the core health practices.

Physical Distance: The Length of 2 Lacrosse Sticks

2 Lacrosse Sticks = 6 Feet or 2 Metres

MESSAGE Brought to you by: Project Protect Our People - Protection, Prevention, Respect
The ECG and Ohsweken Public Health are committed to continuously monitoring the situation, providing regular updates to the community, and implementing increased/decreased health and safety measures according to our community and current pandemic state.

With the help from the entire community, from students, parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, cousins and those who have not been born yet – together we can all do our part to ensure **Project: Protect Our People** prevails over this COVID-19 Pandemic.

It is the responsibility of each community member to ensure the safety of everyone within Six Nations.

**Reminder to continue to follow the Core Health Principles:**

- Travel for essential purposes only,
- Wear a mask/face covering,
- Stay home if you feel sick and call the Six Nations COVID-19 Info. & Assessment Centre at 1-855-977-7737 or 226-446-9909,
- Clean/disinfect your house and workplace constantly,
- Wash your hands,
- Protect Our People!

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**SKODEN**

- Stay at home if you are sick
- Keep commonly touched places clean & disinfected
- Obey public health advice & social distancing
- Do not touch your face
- Emergency situations call 911
- Nose & mouth etiquette. Cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw tissue into garbage and wash your hands.