



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 6, 2021

Saugeen First Nation (SFN)
Robert Rice – Communications Officer
robert.rice@saugeen.org

SAUGEEN FIRST NATION COVID UPDATE FOR JULY 6TH, 2021

Our community is still dealing with a drastic increase in members who either have had to be hospitalized in ICU due to COVID or have tested positive for COVID. This means many of our community members are currently having to self-isolate and stay in their homes. Furthermore, this is the Delta variant of the COVID virus which is extremely easy to catch and transfer from person to person.

SFN Chief and Council passed a BCR on Wednesday June 30/21 declaring a State of Emergency in response to the emerging COVID-19 crisis in our community.

In response to the State of Emergency, SFN Chief and Council unanimously **directed** the SFN COVID Crisis Team to work directly with Public Health Grey Bruce and other medical experts to determine necessary next steps to ensure that we control the spread of COVID-19 within and outside of our community. Please accept following is our daily update.

Daily COVID Statistics:

As of July 6, 2021: **97** total cases reported- **57** are active – **40** are recovered – **4** in hospital and **2** are intubated.

Community sites:

Over the last 2 weeks and weekends, we have been working daily to get 3 COVID site locations set up. They have been set up as listed in the following:

- ✓ **James Mason Recreation Centre:**
 - Will be used to service our transient/special needs population who have tested positive for COVID and need medical supervision, while in isolation.
- ✓ **Transition House:**
 - Will service our SFN members who have COVID and are not able to isolate for whatever reason in their own homes.
- ✓ **Women's Shelter:**
 - Will service our elders who are double vaccinated and living with adult children who have tested positive.

Financial and Food Donations/Volunteers:

Please be advised that **Cathy Banks** has been designated as our SFN contact for all volunteers, financial and food donations. Cathy has been categorizing and inventorying with her **Food Bank** team, all items and monies that have been donated to date.

We are asking all SFN members who hear about volunteers, food, and financial donations, to please have them contact **Cathy Banks** at **(519) 374-3963**.

Financial and Food Donations/Volunteers (cont.):

Also, we are encouraging all SFN band-staff and members to seriously consider volunteering, if you have had both vaccinations and are 15 days past your second vaccination shot. We sure could use the help! We have had about 4 community members volunteer with most of our volunteers coming from off-reserve. Also, we have been fortunate to have many of our Health Department staff assisting daily. Chi-Miigwetch!

Vaccination Schedule:

Please be aware that via our Bimadsawin Health Centre, to battle the COVID outbreak in our community, will be offering:

- ✓ Swabbing services (for COVID testing);
- ✓ A Mobile Unit for door to door servicing - will have an SFN elder for support, physician, community health nurse, and paramedic;
- ✓ As well, the RAAM clinic will be open (Tuesday and Thursday).

Dates of these activities are as follows:

July 7th, 2021: - Swab tests will be held at the Fisheries building from 9 – 11AM.
- Mobile Unit will be travelling around our community from 1PM - 4PM.

July 8th, 2021: - Swab tests will be held at the Fisheries building from 9 – 11AM.
- RAAM Clinic will be open from 11AM-3PM at the Health Centre

July 9th, 2021: - Swab tests will be held at the Fisheries building from 9 – 11AM.
- Mobile Unit will be travelling around our community from 1PM - 4PM.

COVID Co-ordinator position will be posted:

We have decided to hire a COVID Co-ordinator for the next 3-6 months. This position will be reviewed at the end of the 3-6 months contract.

It is through community cooperation, perseverance, and respect, that we will get through this challenge of eradicating the COVID virus from our community. This temporary closure is a difficult step for all of us, but we are confident that we will get through this together. Please stay home, travel only unless it's absolutely necessary, and strictly observe the following pandemic protocols:

- Wear a mask outside your home.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Watch your distance and remain at least 2 meters from people you don't live with.

Miigwetch,

Saugeen First Nation Chief and Council
