



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 8, 2021

Saugeen First Nation (SFN)
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SAUGEEN FIRST NATION COVID UPDATE FOR JULY 8TH, 2021

Our community is still dealing with our SFN 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.

As most of you know, 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. As of today, in conjunction with Grey Bruce Health Unit (GBHU) and SFN, we have developed a plan to support SFN in managing the COVID outbreak within our community.

The following update contains information to some questions which our membership may have:

Daily COVID Statistics for SFN community members:

As of 2PM on July 8, 2021: **99** cases reported to date - **56** are active – **43** are recovered – **7** are in hospital – Age range is 18-50 years old

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 and will be used as outlined 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.
 - We are hoping to have this site available by noon on July 9th, 2021.

- ✓ **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 and have not been exposed.

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 staff, 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**.

All donations being given need to come through the food bank, in order to get receipts to our donors. We also again ask that families that are isolating, to be patient and kind to the volunteers and staff that are assisting with delivery.

We are asking all SFN band-staff and members to come forward to volunteer, 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 4-6 community members volunteer with most of our volunteers coming from off-reserve.

Who are the SFN essential staff?

We have been fortunate to have many of our Health Department staff assisting daily along with our essential band staff identified as:

- ✓ The Mino Bimaadsawin Health Centre for vaccinations, testing and other core programs;
- ✓ Essential staff at the band office, such as; Maintenance, Finance, Band Administrator and Communications;
- ✓ Social Services;
- ✓ Food Bank;
- ✓ And Works Department.

Vaccination Schedule:

Please be aware that via our Bimaadsawin Health Centre, to battle the COVID outbreak in our community, will be offering the following services during the month of July:

- ✓ Swabbing services (for COVID testing) Mon-Fri., 9-11AM @ the Fisheries Bldg;
- ✓ A Mobile Unit for door to door servicing - will have an SFN elder for support, physician, community health nurse, and paramedic. It will be travelling around our community from 1PM - 4PM. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday;
- ✓ As well, the RAAM clinic will be open Tuesday and Thursday from 11AM – 3PM.
- ✓ Vaccination Clinic has been running every Tuesday – please call the Health Centre to book an appointment.

- ✓ ***Please refer to attached calendar with future dates and times of all these activities for the month of July.***

Security:

- ✓ Cancom and the OPP have and will continue to be available during the lockdown. We are currently in discussions with Red Cross as to how this will look and blend with our community shutdown process.

Regarding local SFN businesses:

- ✓ If business owners need financial support to keep their business running, Tecumseh and Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business, will be able to provide information for loans and grants.

What does “State of Emergency” mean?

- ✓ It means: Stay home. If you have been swabbed/tested for COVID, you must isolate until results are provided. For individuals who have tested positive – they must stay in quarantine for 14 days, and NO household gatherings.

Red Cross:

- ✓ The Red Cross arrived into our community this past weekend to conduct a community assessment to assist in the development of COVID crisis plan for SFN. They left on
- ✓ Today, we had about 12 new Red Cross first responders arrive to assist.

COVID Co-ordinator position has been 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.

SFN Facebook and Website Updates:

- ✓ Information is being shared daily via our SFN Facebook and website - it is changing daily, but we are doing our best. Please refer to either of these for the most accurate and correct community updates.

Finally, I would like to share that our SFN Chief and Council, with senior band staff, have worked non-stop the past 2.5 weeks, and over both weekends working long hours to get things into place - this is a monumental task we have undertaken for the primary safety of our community members and staff.

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

**Vaccination / Swabbing / RAAM Clinic
July 5th to July 30th**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am	6th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Vaccination Clinic 9am to 2pm. RAAM Clinic – 11 – 3pm	7th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM	8th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am RAAM Clinic -11am to 3 pm.	9th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM
12th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM	13th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am RAAM Clinic – 11am - Vaccination Clinic	14th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM	15th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am RAAM Clinic - 11am to 3 pm	16th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM
19th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM	20th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am RAAM Clinic- 11am to 3pm Vaccination Clinic (tentative)	21st Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM	22nd Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am RAAM Clinic -11am to 3pm	23rd Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM
26st Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM	27th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Vaccination Clinic – (tentative) RAAM Clinic – 11am to 3pm.	28th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM	29th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am RAAM Clinic – 11am to 3pm	30th Swabbing / Fisheries Building 9-11am Mobile Unit / PM • <i>Health Team to Assess Progress</i>

- Contact Tracing done here at the health center
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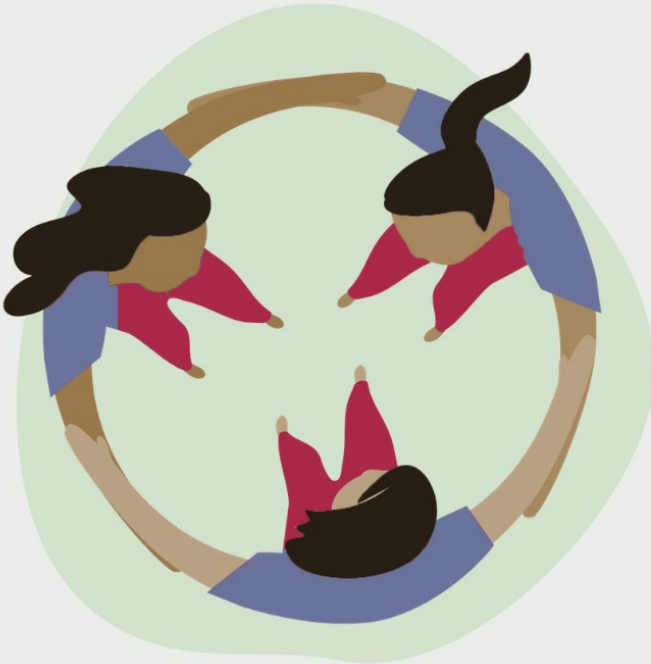
WHAT'S YOUR REASON FOR GETTING VACCINATED?



Elders



Family



Community



Youth & Children

