



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 28, 2021

Saugeen First Nation (SFN)
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VERY IMPORTANT SFN UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19.

We have seen a recent increase in cases in the time of the Omicron variant. This variant is highly contagious and appears to be less severe than Delta at this time.

Attention SFN,

We have a very important update regarding COVID-19. We have seen a recent increase in cases in the time of the Omicron variant. This variant is highly contagious and appears to be less severe than Delta at this time. The Omicron variant can spread through households and close contacts much faster and more efficiently than other variants that we have seen.

As of December 28th at 4:00pm, we have 5 active cases of COVID-19 in Saugeen First Nation. On top of these 5 active cases, we have many symptomatic individuals, many individuals that have tested positive using a rapid test, and many high-risk contacts in SFN. Therefore, our active case count of 5 is likely an underestimate of how many cases we truly have. If you feel ill, even if you think it's just a head cold, please stay home and isolate.

The Omicron variant can present with a different set of symptoms than the other variants. Omicron has quickly spread across the country so if you fall ill, it's likely that it is Omicron. If you test positive on a rapid test you also need to stay home and isolate – you are likely a true positive for COVID-19. If you fall ill or have a positive rapid test, please contact those that you were recently around. These individuals may be considered high-risk contacts and may need to isolate.

Testing centres and processing facilities are strained across Ontario with the surge in cases and testing. At this time, we are evaluating who needs tested on a case-by-case basis. We are doing our best to try and ensure the safety of the community. Moving forward the positive case count will likely continue to be an underestimated value due to the strains on the healthcare system at this time.

Please continue to stay home if you feel unwell, wear a mask when interacting with those outside of your household, socially distance when possible, and limit all unnecessary interactions. Please continue to follow all public health guidelines and restrictions.

If you have any questions/concerns or think you may have COVID-19, please reach out to me and we can discuss your situation.

Miigwetch and stay safe,

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