



For Immediate Release: March 28, 2020

First Cases of COVID-19 Confirmed in Six Nations

Two cases of the COVID-19 virus have been confirmed in Six Nations of the Grand River territory.

The positive test results were received on Saturday March 27, 2020 and mark the first confirmed appearance of the virus in the community.

Both individuals began self-isolating immediately upon symptom development and testing and continued to self-isolate until test results were communicated. They were monitored by Public Health through the duration of this time.

Ohsweken Public Health officials had begun contact tracing of the two once testing was done and reaching out to those they came into contact with. These contacts also began self-isolation immediately, were educated on monitoring for symptoms and the need for self-isolation measures.

“The COVID-19 virus is here in Six Nations of the Grand River. The global death rate due to COVID-19 is 5%. This means, if we do not reduce exposure to one another, the strong potential exists that 5 out of 100 people in Six Nations will die,” says Lori Davis Hill, Six Nations Health Director.

“We know we couldn’t stop it from being here. It is here. We CAN stop it from spreading because being around people is how it travels. Stay home, connect with your family and friends by phone or social media and stop gathering in groups.” says Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Chief Mark Hill noting the resources Ohsweken Public Health, Gane Yohs Health Centre, Six Nations Health Services, the Emergency Control Group and Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council have been mobilizing since declaring the community emergency on March 12, 2020.

Six Nations of the Grand River continue working with all of the Health Professionals to share vital health and safety information through their #SKODEN! public health campaign.

“The strongest resources we have are our people and our knowledge,” says Chief Hill. “Now is the time to step up and to put that knowledge into action so we can control and slow the spread of the virus through Six Nations of the Grand River territory.”

This week, Six Nations of the Grand River will begin restricting the flow of people into, within, and out of the community. This measure is the direct action taken to reduce the spread of the virus throughout the community.

Using checkpoints at the community's access points, they will provide an opportunity to monitor for symptoms while educating travellers on emergency measures, and health and safety information.

"The death rate has been as high as 10 percent of confirmed cases in some of the hardest-hit parts of the world – and we know our population is vulnerable," says Lori Davis Hill, Director of Six Nations Health Services. "Elders, smokers, and people with pre-existing illnesses are at a much higher risk, so we really need to take this news seriously and work together to reduce the spread of the virus and literally save lives."

Public Health Officials are reminding people to:

- Take every measure to stay at home, especially if they feel ill;
- Practice physical distancing if they do have to go out in public;
- Keep their bodies and surroundings clean and disinfected, especially their hands by washing them often and for at least 20 seconds;
- Monitor themselves for symptoms that include coughing, fever, and difficulty breathing, reporting any signs immediately to the Six Nations COVID-19 Information and Assessment Centre at 1-855-977-7737 or 226-446-9909

In anticipation of more cases, SNGREC is advertising a number of positions including Cleaners, Personal Support Workers, Registered Practical Nurses, Respiratory Therapists, Registered Nurses, Paramedics, and Physicians.

Applicants and volunteers are asked to visit sixnationscovid19.ca.

Six Nations members who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 are asked call the

**[Six Nations COVID-19 Information and Assessment Centre at
1-855-977-7737 or 226-446-9909.](https://sixnationscovid19.ca)**

Those requiring urgent medical attention should call 911.

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Media: Please direct them to: Communications Officer at clickers@sixnations.ca