



For Immediate Release: March 24, 2020

# Negative Result for Six Nations Fire Platoon Member's COVID-19 Test

Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council is expressing their relief today after receiving a member of their Fire Services' negative COVID-19 test result.

To date, there are no confirmed cases of the virus in Six Nations of the Grand River territory.

Fire Chief Matthew Miller will remain in self-isolation as a precautionary measure while he waits for the results of his test.

"Our fire service is very much a family, and like many families are being asked, we needed to do the right thing in this situation and self-isolate out of an abundance of caution and care for our community," says Fire Chief Miller. "I along with the members of our fire service family am extremely relieved to know that our family member will be ok and that the results have come back negative".

Fire Chief Miller and 11 other fire fighters went into self-isolation on Sunday after learning of their platoon member's potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

Ohsweken Public Health contacted others in the community who had come into contact with the platoon member, urging them to begin self-isolating as well.

"I want to thank every member of the platoon for demonstrating courage and leadership through this ordeal," says Six Nations Elected Chief Mark Hill. "If every member of our community rises to the call of duty in this way, I have no doubt we'll come out of this with minimal impact on the health and well-being of Six Nations members."

Six Nations Fire & Emergency Services have received many inquiries and questions worrying about first responders coming to their aid during these challenging times. Six Nations Fire and Emergency Services are not being impacted by these important measures with two other full platoons remaining active and offers from neighbouring service providers to help Six Nations, if needed. All platoon members are returning back to work after test result came back negative. Chief Miller will continue to self-isolate for 14 days or upon receiving his test result. More updates on this forthcoming.

It must be understood that the personal protective equipment which front line staff are wearing when responding to emergencies is not only for their protection but the community's protection as well. We would never put anyone's health or wellbeing in danger. All front line staff will continue to serve our community without hesitation but we ask that the community continue to support us through these challenging times.

"I will hopefully be receiving the results of my test soon and be able to rejoin my home family and fire service family on the front line." Fire Chief Miller.

Self-isolation involves staying home and avoiding contact with others, preferably alone in their own room. Homes with somebody under self-isolation should not receive any visitors. Anybody under self-isolation must also call Ohsweken Public Health to advise them of their measures.

Six Nations of the Grand River declared a Community Emergency on March 12, 2020, initiating a series of multiple measures to combat the spread of COVID-19. These measures include the closure of non-essential services and facilities, public schools, and mandating Elected Council staff to work from home.

All Six Nations members are reminded to stay at home unless it is absolutely necessary. In addition, restaurants will no longer offer sit down service and have moved to takeout, drive-through and delivery only.

By limiting contact with each other, Six Nations can slow the spread of the virus.

**There are no confirmed cases in Six Nations of the Grand River community to date, and we are taking every effort to keep it that way.**

**Six Nations members who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, and/or difficulty breathing, should call [Ohsweken Public Health at 519-445-2672](tel:519-445-2672).**

Members who require urgent medical attention should call 911.

For more information on how Six Nations members can keep themselves and their community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit Six Nation's COVID-19 website:  
[www.sixnationscovid19.ca](http://www.sixnationscovid19.ca)

For more information on self-isolation measures, please visit:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/self-monitoring-self-isolation-isolation-for-covid-19.html>

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Media: most feet are on the ground, but we will try our best to accommodate requests. Please direct them to: **Communications Officer at [clickers@sixnations.ca](mailto:clickers@sixnations.ca)**