



For Immediate Release: February 4, 2021

## Two Non-Resident Cases of COVID-19 Confirmed at the Iroquois Lodge

Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council received notice today from Ohsweken Public Health that two non-resident individuals of Iroquois Lodge have tested positive for COVID-19.

The two positive results were discovered earlier today as a result of the Lodge's surveillance testing safeguard measure that has been in place since the onset of this pandemic last year.

### **Iroquois Lodge residents remain holding strong with no residents having tested positive for COVID-19 since day one!**

The Six Nation community can be assured that the Lodge team have implemented a series of precautionary measures as a result of these two new positive cases.

Last year, at the beginning of the COVID pandemic, continuous surveillance testing was implemented for all staff, caregivers, and contractors that frequent the Lodge. Surveillance testing is a protective measure that follows strict Ministry standards. This safeguard measure tests non-residents for COVID-19 continuously on a weekly basis.

It was through this safeguard measure that allowed the Lodge to receive prompt notification of those individuals having tested positive, and before those individuals would return to the facility for work. They have since been directed by public health to self-isolate, and will not return to work until a negative test is received and the 14-day isolation period is complete.

This proves that surveillance testing is a very useful tool, as it is done continuously with reports submitted directly to the Ministry of Long Term Care. It requires all non-residents frequenting the Lodge for work or caregiving purposes must have a negative test result within the last 7 days.

Lori Davis Hill, Director of Health Services stated "Both individuals were reported asymptomatic at the time of testing, which is a stark reminder to the community that testing is an important tool for containing further spread. I am thankful for the Lodge's continual surveillance testing. We acted quickly to protect the residents and the team working at the Lodge."

As another precautionary measure for everyone at Iroquois Lodge, all residents, and non-

residents are undergoing retesting today by Six Nations Paramedic Services. In addition to this testing, residents are placed in temporary isolation within their rooms until further direction is received from public health.

Also please note that visiting protocols will change, and designated caregivers will be contacted by Iroquois Lodge staff.

Six Nations is urging the community to continue to follow health and safety guidelines to prevent any further spread of COVID-19 within the territory. This includes staying home as much as possible, practicing social distancing, wearing a mask, frequent hand washing, and avoiding large gatherings.

It is also strongly encouraged that community members get tested for COVID-19 if they are experiencing symptoms or think they may have been exposed to the virus. It is possible to contract the virus and not have any symptoms while still being contagious.

To book a COVID-19 test at the assessment center, please visit [www.sixnationscovid19.ca](http://www.sixnationscovid19.ca) or call 1-855-977-7737 or locally at 226-446-9909.

We must all remain diligent and do our part to slow the spread of this virus. Members are reminded to draw on the strength of our ancestors and our traditional medicines to continue this fight. We must all work together to protect one another, especially our Elders, knowledge keepers, and the most vulnerable within the community.

Six Nations Elected Council continues to send their thoughts and good medicine to our healthcare workers and those impacted by COVID-19 and their families.

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