

# Emergency Operations Newsletter

June 24th, 2020

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Department Updates

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### NURSING

Testing is becoming more widely available as the province had all Long Term Care Facilities (staff and residents) tested as a precautionary measure. Now testing is going to be available for our Health Centre Staff on June 30th, 2020. We want to remind everyone that these tests are done as a precautionary measure and that there are NO suspected cases here in M'Chigeeng.



Being away from family & friends is very difficult for everyone. Although we cannot visit in person just yet, a phone call is always a good way to brighten someone's day. Let them know you are thinking about them. Perhaps you can surprise them with a card in the mail. Stay Connected.

**M'Chigeeng  
Wellness  
Centre**

705-377-4240

### Wellness Centre

The Wellness Centre is still taking precautions to protect their residents. Sadly, in person visits are still restricted but we encourage that family and friends maintain contact through phone calls, video chats, mail, etc. Our elders are missing their friends and family make sure they know you are missing them too!

# CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATES

On June 11, 2020 the Chief and Council met received presentations from the Health Services Department Manager who presented an additional Medical Opinion from a local doctor whom essentially said the same thing as the Chief Medical Officer of Health and another local doctor which was presented at an earlier meeting. The message was that the three physicians who provided the Opinions are essentially advising to not open up the community to cottagers this year strictly due to COVID19. In their Opinion, with the high rates of diabetes, heart disease and other chronic illnesses in our community and increasing the population upwards of approximately 700 people not only increase the risk to the community but also to the health care system. The advice acknowledged that the “decision was a very difficult one and further stated that if the leadership do choose to open up to cottagers, then ideally cottagers should not invite other groups of friends and relatives to stay, should self-isolate for 2 weeks before cautiously increasing their mobility on the Island, should stay on the Island for the whole summer once they do arrive and should avoid high-risk activities that might result in injuries. However, it seems unlikely that there are ways to modify the behaviour of summer residents once they are given permission to come. It also seems unlikely that there is a mechanism to prevent people from coming from high risk areas of the province”. The Council acknowledged the Medical Opinion.

The Council was provided with a Reopening Update from the Health Services Manager and Ogimaa Kwe. The update outlined the work of the Emergency Operations Group and the discussions being held on reopening strategies as it relates to the operational aspect of M'Chigeeng as well as the communal aspect and business aspect. The important piece here is engagement which needs to be completed to get the community's input as the reopening restarts. The update included upcoming engagement sessions, testing, training for staff, draft protocols, PPE analysis, and confirmation that the Chief Medical Officer of Health will be supporting the review of work completed by the Emergency Operations Group prior to going to Chief and Council for approval. The Council made a Motion to accept the Update Report and that M'Chigeeng First Nation continues to move forward cautiously and supports the engagement of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on all reopening plans. The Council moved that M'Chigeeng First Nation take a slower approach to reopening compared to the province due to highly vulnerable citizens of our community.

The Council acknowledged the work of the Emergency Operations Group and look forward to receiving final reports on community and business engagements to be included with the reopening strategy document.

## Enaagdenjged (Band Manager Update)

The New Council reaffirmed the process of recruitment for the Enaagdenjged that was started by the last council. Deputy Chief Daughness Migwans is taking the lead on this process. There have been several meetings with the recruitment agency so far. The First Nation has hired a recruitment agency to assist in this process. Currently, interviews are scheduled for July 14 and July 15, 2020. Based on the timeline we should have an Enaagdenjged in place by an estimated date of July 30, 2020.

# Finance

COVID-19 is an uncertainty for everyone, we do not know how long we will be in the precautionary mode. But this is our new normal, the Finance Department will continue to maintain the safety measures that we have in place in our department.

The finance continuity of the operations of M'Chigeeng is our priority. The finance operations will continue as we need to provide management information, financial and regulatory reporting. The finances still need to get their accounting periods closed and reconciled because accurate information provides effective decision making.

To ensure services continue to meet the needs of the community members and/or citizens to visit or make other arrangement for payment to M'Chigeeng First Nation:

### In person payments using debit/cash/credit card:

If you wish to make payment in person, please telephone the administration office at 705-377-5362 & request to make an appointment to come in person. MFN receptionist must ask screening questions before visiting the administration office. When entering the administration office, personnel will meet you at the main reception area & accept payment & receipt will be issued.

### BMO online payments:

Only community members and/or citizens with BMO account can access this service online. Should you require your customer account number to set up under BMO, please contact either Janet Debassige or Keegan Peltier at 705-377-5362 or email requesting customer account numbers

### ◆ Cheque/Money Order payments:

- ◆ Mail to M'Chigeeng First Nation, PO Box 333, M'Chigeeng or drop off at administration office reception

### ◆ Credit Card payments:

- ◆ Contact Janet Debassige or Keegan Peltier to make payment via telephone

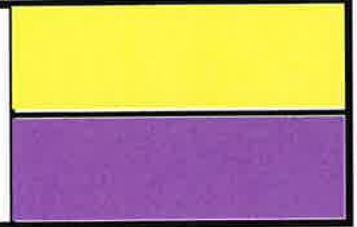
### ◆ Accounts Payable – On-Line Banking

- ◆ Another option that we are processing is making payments through EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer). If you want to have your payments go directly to your bank account, we will need your bank direct deposit form that has your name and bank account or a void cheque. Your email address is important to us, this will allow quick notification when a deposit has been made.





# Education



AANII BOOZHOO MAAMPII ENJI KINOOMAADWIN AACHKINGANING!

On June 12th, Premier Ford and the Ministry of Education announced that Daycare facilities would be allowed to re-open. We have been working on finalizing the plans for the re-opening of M'Chigeeng Binoojiinh Gamgoonhs. We will be working on ensuring that all safety measures and Ministry guidelines are followed. We understand that our families have questions, and we will provide full details in the next two weeks. We are focused on maintaining our commitment to your child's and family's health and safety. All areas will be well informed, prepared, trained and supported. Currently, we are focused on the infrastructure, return of our respected workers and communication to our families. All M'Chigeeng Binoojiinh Gamgoonhs families will be receiving information in the next week or two.



Lakeview school's official school year for 2019/2020 ended on Friday, June 12th. We are very grateful to our families, students, and incredible staff who overcame many difficult obstacles in ensuring we maintained schooling for all. We are very proud of the hard work our parents and teachers put into these past four months. Not only were our teachers creating new learning opportunities, we found many of our parents creating lessons for their children in very innovative approaches. Parents and teachers, you are all incredibly amazing! We are utilizing these last two weeks to prepare our staff and school for the upcoming 2020/2021 school year. Parents will be receiving information on our start updates for school, and provisions that will be made for our upcoming Covid/Non Covid school year.

Lastly, Chief and Council approved our Post-Secondary sponsorship for the next school term. Our Post-Secondary coordinator Miss Terri Lynn Debassige will be sending out letters to all students. Any further inquiries can be made to the education office.

We wish our students, staff, and families a restful summer holiday!

## Ontario Works

The M'Chigeeng Ontario Works Department continues to implement Covid -19 measures at the M'Chigeeng First Nation Administration Office. The OW/LDM Office will continue to be closed to the general public with direct contact, all communication is by telephone, email, mail, etc. We are assisting with calls for any inquiries for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit applications.

The Ontario Works Office continues to provide additional assistance due to Covid 19 based on eligibility within the program.

Ontario Works is currently assisting with deliveries for the Healthy Food Box Program with the M'Chigeeng Health Services Program and we are resourcing funds to the M'Chigeeng Food Depot.

The LDM/OW Program will be assisting all MFN Staff with training cost for Covid-19 for safety measures.

Miigwetch

## Community Outreach

Our community workers are still going non-stop to ensure that everyone has all the essentials! Keep an eye on the M'Chigeeng Health Services Facebook and Instagram pages to see upcoming contests, giveaway, food baskets, almost anything you need! We really appreciate all the positive feedback and engagement from our community members and volunteers! We appreciate





# HIAH/FRESHMART

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Our Administration Office has in place an “Activation Level” plan as part of responding to the COVID - 19 pandemic.

HIAH Corp Economic Development continues its work in monitoring COVID-19 for new Business Support Provincial funding programs and providing this information to local registered businesses.

There were five (5) COVID – 19, updates sent out to local businesses. The updates included protocols and procedures for business operations and Government funding programs to financially assist those business financially affected by COVID – 19.

COVID-19 has had a huge negative impact on our community and local business suffered enormously. As we move forward and in preparation for the “Re-opening of our Community”, HIAH Corp staff organized Two (2) community Forums. The first was held June 15 for local Registered Businesses and the other, June 17 for Community Membership. The theme at these sessions was “input and discussions on the Re – Opening Plans for the Community”. These Forums were held vis Microsoft Teams-online. Follow up Reports from these sessions will be provided to Chief and Council.

Our Freshmart Grocery Store remains open with a modified schedule of hours and continues to follow all protocols developed since March of this year.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY!!

The Emergency Operations Group is tasked with creating a reopening strategy for Council consideration and approval. An important part of this is getting our citizens and businesses to provide feedback. There has been two forums hosted by HIAH Corp. that did not get a lot of feedback and there has also been a questionnaire that went out that did not much feedback. In order to gain more feedback a survey will be sent out by bulkmail. We are asking that you complete this survey and return to the Administration Office as soon as possible. You will be entered into a draw of 10 - \$100.00 gift cards to our local grocery store. If you require additional copies of the survey, please contact the Office Administrator at the Band Office or email [marlened@mchigeeng.ca](mailto:marlened@mchigeeng.ca)

# M'Chigeeng Health Services STAY HOME, PHYSICALLY DISTANCE

## Best Practices:

## YOURSELF & STOP THE SPREAD

### 1. STAY HOME



- Limit visitors, and practice physical distancing
- Clean frequently touched surfaces daily (using disinfectant cleaner or soap and warm water)
- Wash hands frequently

### 4. DO'S & DON'TS OF WEARING A HANDMADE MASK



- **DO** wash your hands before and after removing a mask
- **DO** wear a mask where physical distancing is a challenge i.e. Grocery Store, Gas Station, Health Centre
- **DO** frequently wash your handmade mask, in laundry or with soap and water
- **DON'T** allow your mask to hang under your chin or from one ear
- **DON'T** let your nose peek out from your mask

### ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS 2.

Hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19

1. Wet hands under warm running water
  2. Wash hands with liquid soap
  3. Sing 'Happy Birthday' twice while washing hands (20 SECONDS)
  4. Dry hands with own personal towel or paper towel
  5. Turn off tap with paper towel
- If you don't have liquid soap use **alcohol based hand sanitizer**

### KNOW HOW THE VIRUS SPREADS 5.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

- M'Chigeeng Health Services Facebook Page
- Public Health Ontario
- World Health Organization Webpage
- Health Canada Webpage
- Centres for Disease and Control Prevention Webpage

### 3. PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- 6-9 feet apart from anyone not living in your house
- Avoid large crowds or groups over 5 people
- Wear a handmade mask out in public or places you cannot avoid close contact



### 6. COUGHING & SNEEZING

- Sneeze or cough into Kleenex or sleeves **NOT YOUR HANDS**
- Throw out used Kleenex right after use
- Wash hands or sanitize right away
- Avoid touching your face



If you have any further questions, concerns or are experiencing any symptoms call;

M'Chigeeng Health Centre 705-377-5347

Manitoulin Health Centre 705-377-5311

M'Chigeeng Health Services

mfnhealthservices

#StaySafe #StayHome #StoptheSpread

#StaySafe #StayHome #StoptheSpread

M'Chigeeng Health Services

mfnhealthservices



# M'CHIGEENG FIRST NATION GARBAGE CLEAN UP NOTICE

The Annual Spring Clean up for our Citizens occurred in April. We understand that due to the COVID19 Pandemic that many households were unable to participate. Therefore, we will be holding another Spring Clean up for our Citizens that will commence **June 15, 2020 and run until June 26, 2020**. Please contact Winnie Panamick at the Administration Office to schedule a pick up.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR ITEMS FOR PICK UP  
ARE AT THE END OF YOUR DRIVEWAY FOR EASY  
ACCESS FOR DRIVERS.**

**TO REQUEST PICK UP, PLEASE CALL  
705-877-5361 OR LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH THE MAIN  
RECEPTIONIST.**