



## COMMUNITY UPDATE

**TO:** GRFN Community Members  
**FROM:** Chief Andy Rickard and Council  
**DATE:** March 14, 2020  
**RE:** **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update and Safety**

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Chief and Council along with our departments, are carefully monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as new information is being provided daily. We understand that these are uncertain times for our families and citizens and we want to assure each of you that as your Chief and Council we are taking all necessary preventative steps to keep us safe and do our part to impede and reduce the infiltration of this pandemic virus.

Garden River First Nation has initiated the following steps to protect our community:

- **Pandemic Plan:** The Wellness Centre created a Pandemic Plan for Garden River and as Health Canada receives new updates daily about COVID-19, the plan will continue to be updated.
- **Business/Service Continuity Plan:** GRFN Departments are providing continuity plans, which will identify essential services and how to access these services. For example, Public Works, Niigaaniin (Food Bank), Housing, Wellness Centre, etc.
- **Communication:** Essential services and their contact numbers will be provided to the community on Monday, March 16, 2020 through door to door notices and social media communications including health and safety and information from the pandemic plan.
- We will continue to work in partnership with our Wellness Centre and outlying local governments for preventative measures and precaution protocols.

### HOW CAN I BE RESPONSIBLE AND WHAT CAN I DO?

The health and safety of our citizens remains the highest concern for Chief and Council and our Administration. This is not the time to panic but to plan ahead and look out for one another while keeping cautionary measures.

In this respect, please continue good hygiene practices:

1. Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands
2. Use hand sanitizer
3. Cough and sneeze into your elbow and arm if you don't have a handkerchief or tissue
4. If you feel sick, please stay home and advise a family member if you are not feeling well.

If you are feeling unwell and not sure if you should be tested:

- Call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000
- Consult your family physician or nurse practitioner
- Call Algoma Public Health at 705-759-5404 or TF 1-866-892-0172, ext. 5404
- If you need immediate medical assistance, please call 911, and tell first responders about your symptoms and any recent travel, so that appropriate precautions can be put in place.

Meegwetch,



Chief Andy Rickard  
On behalf of Council and Administration

**For further information contact:**

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*In the spirit of our ancestors and our Treaty, we endeavour to conduct ourselves in a manner that is consistent with the Seven Grandfather Teachings given to us by the Creator. We envision a harmonious community that is built on mutual respect that maintains a healthy balance through prosperity and well-being. Through these actions we intend to create a self-sustaining community that fulfills the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual well-being of all members.*

*\*\*\* Nbwaakaawin-Wisdom \*\*\* Zaagidwin-Love \*\*\* Mnaadendmowin-Respect  
\*\*\* Aakdehewin-Bravery \*\*\* Gwekwadziwin-Honesty \*\*\* Dbaadendizin-Humility  
\*\*\* Debwewin-Truth*



**OJIBWAYS OF ROBINSON-HURON TREATY OF 1850**