



KETEGAUNSEEBEE

**GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION**

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**Date: November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 9:00AM**  
**Prepared By: Anne Headrick, Executive Director**

**Subject: COVID-19 Community Update**

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**NOTICE TO THE COMMUNITY**  
**COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE**

Due to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in the Algoma District, this notice was prepared to inform community members of additional confirmed cases associated with persons who reside within the community and precautionary measures implemented by the Garden River First Nation to assist the Algoma Public Health Unit in isolating and preventing the further spread of the COVID-19 virus at this time.

**COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES UPDATE**

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Garden River First Nation was made aware of an additional **two (2)** confirmed cases of COVID-19 associated with persons who reside within the community. These additional two (2) cases are **NOT** related to the case reported on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, providing evidence of community spread within the Algoma District.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, an additional **three (3)** cases were reported associated with persons who also reside within the community.

At the time of writing, there are **six (6)** active cases of COVID-19 associated with persons who reside in the community. Additionally, the Algoma Public Health Unit is reporting 90 active cases with 5 persons currently hospitalized within the Algoma District.

**GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

**All non-essential employees will be working virtually in Step 1 of the GRFN COVID-19 Reopening Plan. This decision was made with the support of Chief Andy Rickard to provide increased protection, safety and to mitigate the risk of spread in the workplace and the community.**

**The health and safety of our community is our upmost concern and these increased safety measures are EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UNTIL NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2021.**



Only essential employees will be permitted to attend their workplace to perform essential services with the upmost precautions in place. Administrative services will be limited personnel and office doors will be locked during Step 1. The majority of staff will be working from their home offices and will still be available to provide services remotely via telephone call, emails, and virtual meetings. Any scheduled in-person meetings will be held virtually or rescheduled until in-person meetings are approved.

Please refer to the attached directory for immediate/emergent assistance and Managers will be able to direct your call. All community events planned from now until November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 will be virtual. This includes staff organized activities and events.

### **GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION BUSINESS ENTITY UPDATE**

All GRFN administered Businesses will remain open with increased safety measures in place. Please contact the respective business, check their Facebook Page or Website for more information on reduced capacity limits, enhanced screening requirements and additional safety measures in place:

- Garden River Bingo Enterprises                      705-253-8718
- Silver Creek Golf Course and Restaurant      705-942-2080
- Garden River Recreation Center                      705-946-4006

### **OTHER LOCAL RETAIL BUSINESSES IN THE COMMUNITY**

A mass distribution email was sent to other local Retail Businesses in the community to ensure that they are practicing their due diligence by ensuring that customers are following our COVID-19 protocols i.e. wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, physical distancing, and not serving customers who are experiencing any symptoms. We encourage all members to follow proper protocols while visiting our local Retailers and respect any additional safety measures implemented at their respective establishments. If you are feeling unwell, please stay home.

### **COMMUNITY MEMBERS ACTIVITIES**

Once again, we strongly recommend that all community members refrain from non-essential travel and adhere to all Public Health Safety Guidelines and Recommendations. Remain current on updates from the Algoma Public Health Unit and continue to be diligent.

Please wear your mask as much as possible, frequently washing your hands, physical distance in public areas and refrain from large gatherings by staying within your close family circles. Continue to monitor daily for any symptoms of COVID-19, whether you are vaccinated or not. If you are experiencing **ANY COVID-19 symptoms**, please stay home and get tested immediately.

The surge in COVID-19 cases will continue to be monitored and decisions will be made accordingly. Please visit the Garden River First Nation website and social media pages for more information.

Community updates will be provided as information is received from the Algoma Public Health Unit. The COVID-19 Virus is spread easily and this is not the time to become complacent. Remain vigilant, supportive and compassionate to those affected by this virus.



## **STEP 1 – GRFN REOPENING PLAN**

These increased safety measures are developed and implemented under the direction of the Executive Director, based on the advice of Health Professionals and through consultation with the COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team.

At any given time, “Micro-Closures” may be necessary based on information, guidance and discussion with the GRFN Executive Director, Health Professionals and the Algoma Public Health Unit. Any Departmental “Micro-Closures” must be made in consultation with the Executive Director. The best interest of the community is always at the forefront when these decisions are made to ensure the safe continuation of services in all situations in an effective and efficient manner.

All parts of the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020, S.O. 2020 and Regulations apply throughout all Steps of Reopening.

All parts of the Preventing COVID-19 In The Workplace Policy apply throughout all Steps of Reopening.

Changes to Administrative Departments, Offices and Businesses on the GRFN are outlined as such:

- VISITOR RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS
- WORK FROM HOME EXCEPT WHERE NECESSARY
  - Any person who performs work for the organization will conduct their work remotely if the means are in place for this work to be performed, unless the nature of their work requires them to be on-site at the workplace.
  - All staff working from home must be approved by Departmental Manager and through proper protocols.
- ONLY ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES, ESSENTIAL SERVICES (hydro, gas, internet, water, contracted services, etc), AND DELIVERIES ARE PERMITTED IN THE WORKPLACE WITH DEPARTMENTAL EXCEPTIONS IDENTIFIED IN BREAKDOWN
- Staff Meetings will be virtual mode where feasible, with the exception of governmental meetings and/or government sanctioned committees/matters.

### **Breakdown by Department:**

#### 1. Public Works

- a. Highway Division – Essential Staff Only
- b. 5-Bay - Essential Staff Only
- c. Sanitation and Recycling – Essential Staff Only
- d. Water Department – Essential Staff Only
- e. Aggregates – Essential Staff Only
- f. Bingo Hall – OPEN with restrictions
  - i. Indoor capacity limited to 60 persons (20% Capacity of 300 total)
  - ii. Enhanced Active Screening for Vaccinated Persons (Exceptions Apply under the Reopening Ontario Act)
  - iii. Proof of Vaccination presented with ID verification upon Entry (Exceptions Apply under the Reopening Ontario Act)
  - iv. Canteen open for takeout/curbside only
  - v. Outdoor bingo, car bingo and online bingo to continue
- g. Silver Creek – OPEN with restrictions
  - i. Indoor dining capacity limited to 2 persons per table with 6 feet distancing between tables
  - ii. Enhanced Active Screening for Vaccinated Persons (Exceptions Apply under the Reopening Ontario Act)
  - iii. Proof of Vaccination presented with ID verification upon Entry (Exceptions Apply under the Reopening Ontario Act)
  - iv. Curbside pickup and/or takeout permitted for restaurant and bar
  - v. 2 person indoor limit for retail store/clubhouse with contact tracing and passive screening
  - vi. Golf, outdoor patio dining and pavilion use permitted with outdoor dining capacity limit of 75 people (30% capacity of 250), limit of 4 people per table
  - vii. Golf cart use limited to members of the same household only
  - viii. Music must not be played at a decibel level that exceeds the level at which normal conversation is possible.
  - ix. No dancing, singing or live entertainment



- h. Ojibway Park – OPEN with restrictions
  - i. Day use restricted to Band Members Only
  - ii. Site Rentals limited to Algoma District residents
  - iii. Site Rentals limited to Seasonal Use with full power and water hookups and use of sanitization station.
  - iv. Other full services sites permitted for rental in emergent situations
  - v. Shower house closed
  - vi. Outdoor pavilion closed for rentals

2. ERCD

- a. Housing – Essential Staff Only
- b. ASETS – Essential Staff Only
- c. Energy – Essential Staff Only

3. Lands Department

- a. Membership – Essential Staff Only
- b. Environment – Essential Staff Only
- c. Fish and Wildlife – Essential Staff Only
- d. Forestry – Essential Staff Only

4. Wellness Center – OPEN with Restrictions to Appointments/Services

- a. All in person appointments/programming determined by Departmental Manager for continuation of essential services, and shall not exceed one client at any given including:
  - i. Social Services
  - ii. Mental Health Support Services,
  - iii. Addiction Support Services
  - iv. Foot Care
  - v. Dietician/Weight Management
  - vi. Dr. Appt's, Nurse Appt's
  - vii. Immunization/Phlebotomy Services
  - viii. Delivery and Support for Special Needs Clients
- a. Outdoor group programming permitted with a limit of 5 persons per session
- b. Mental Health Services – Essential Staff Only
- c. Addictions Services – Essential Staff Only
- d. Nurses – Essential Staff Only
- e. Health Educator – Essential Staff Only
- f. Social Activities Worker – Essential Staff Only
- g. Early Childhood/Healthy Babies – Essential Staff Only
- h. Weight Management Clinic – Essential Staff Only
- i. Foot Care – Essential Staff Only
- j. Psychology Services – Essential Staff Only
- k. Immunization/Phlebotomy Services – Essential Staff Only
- l. Primary Care Services – Essential Staff Only
- m. Jordan's Principle – Essential Staff Only
- n. Elders Programming – Essential Staff Only
- o. Transportation Services – Essential Staff Only
- p. Home and Community Care Services (PSW's) - Essential Staff Only
- q. Healing Lodge – Essential Staff Only

5. Education Unit – OPEN with Essential Staff Only for Programming and Services

- a. JK/SK Program – OPEN
- b. Adults in Motion – OPEN
- c. Tutoring – OPEN
- d. Student Transportation – OPEN



6. Recreation Center – OPEN with restrictions
  - a. Indoor Fitness Room limited to 1 person at any given time by appointment only.
  - b. Enhanced Active Screening for Vaccinated Persons (Exceptions Apply under the Reopening Ontario Act)
  - c. Proof of Vaccination presented with ID Verification upon Entry (Exceptions Apply under the Reopening Ontario Act)
  - d. All close contact sports tournaments, leagues, practices cancelled
  - e. Outdoor Fitness classes, personal training and training for a team or individual sport, not to exceed a 5 person limit with minimum 6 feet distancing
  - f. Gym rental only permitted for the purpose of governmental operations, government sanctioned committee meetings and events and vaccination clinics with an indoor capacity limit of 30 persons (20% capacity of 150)
  
7. Band Office – Administration Building
  - a. Finance – Essential Staff Only
  - b. Human Resources – Essential Staff Only
  - c. Office of the Executive Director – Essential Staff Only
  - d. Executive Assistant – Essential Staff Only
  - e. Governance – Essential Staff Only
  - f. Chief's Office – Essential Staff Only
  
8. Niigaaniin – OPEN with Restrictions to Appointments/Services – Essential Staff Only
  - a. All in person appointments/programming determined by Departmental Manager for continuation of essential services, and shall not exceed one client at any given including:
    - i. Social Services
    - ii. Mental Health Support Services,
    - iii. Addiction Support Services
    - iv. Delivery and Support for Special Needs Clients
  - b. Outdoor programming permitted with a limit of 5 persons per session
  - c. Transportation Services – Essential Staff Only
  
9. Child Care Center – OPEN with Restrictions
  - a. Child Care services determined by Departmental Manager for continuation of services for essential workers only
  
10. Community Center – OPEN with restrictions
  - a. Enhanced Active Screening for Vaccinated Persons (Exceptions Apply under the Reopening Ontario Act)
  - b. Proof of Vaccination presented with ID Verification upon Entry (Exceptions Apply under the Reopening Ontario Act)
  - c. Meetings for the purpose of governmental operations, government sanctioned committees and events, vaccination clinics
  - d. Identified Emergency Operations Center for Emergency Preparedness
  - e. Indoor capacity limit 12 persons (20% capacity of 60)
  
11. FIRE HALL – OPEN
  
12. Child and Family Services - Essential Staff Only



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT AS INDICATED:

Department	Work No.	Manager / Staff Contact	Cell No.	Email
Chief	705-946-6300	Chief Andy Rickard	705-989-5447	<a href="mailto:arickard@gardenriver.org">arickard@gardenriver.org</a>
Executive Director	705-946-6300	Anne Headrick		<a href="mailto:aheadrick@gardenriver.org">aheadrick@gardenriver.org</a>
Executive Assistant	705-946-6300	Tanya Boissoneau	705-971-7833	<a href="mailto:tboissoneau@gardenriver.org">tboissoneau@gardenriver.org</a>
Human Resources	705-946-6300	Karen Rebellato		<a href="mailto:hrmanager@gardenriver.org">hrmanager@gardenriver.org</a>
Finance	705-946-6300	Lise Harrison		<a href="mailto:lharrison@gardenriver.org">lharrison@gardenriver.org</a>
GR Wellness Center	705-946-5710	Jessica Grawbarger	705-971-4204	<a href="mailto:jessicag@grhc.ca">jessicag@grhc.ca</a>
Dan Pine Healing Lodge	705-255-2081	Jessica Grawbarger	705-971-4204	<a href="mailto:jessicag@grhc.ca">jessicag@grhc.ca</a>
GR Housing Unit	705-946-6300	Staff Assigned Daily	705-254-9492	<a href="mailto:gsolomon@gardenriver.org">gsolomon@gardenriver.org</a>
GR Education Unit	705-946-3933	Natalie Barry	705-542-6336	<a href="mailto:adultsinmotion@gardenriver.org">adultsinmotion@gardenriver.org</a>
GR Recreation Center	705-946-4006	Trevor Solomon		<a href="mailto:tsolomon@gardenriver.org">tsolomon@gardenriver.org</a>
Niigaaniin & Food Bank The GRFN Food Bank is OPEN and can deliver	705-946-6300	Hali Solomon	705-542-9664	<a href="mailto:hasolomon@gardenriver.org">hasolomon@gardenriver.org</a>
		EileenThibault	705-254-8318	<a href="mailto:ethibault@gardenriver.org">ethibault@gardenriver.org</a>
		Christine Jones		<a href="mailto:cjones@gardenriver.org">cjones@gardenriver.org</a>
GR Child & Family Services	705-450-5071	Luanne Povey	705-542-3410	<a href="mailto:lpovey@grcfs.ca">lpovey@grcfs.ca</a>
GR Water Department	705-946-6300	Cody Boissoneau	705-971-1210	<a href="mailto:cmboissoneau@gardenriver.org">cmboissoneau@gardenriver.org</a>
GR Public Works	705-946-6300	Darcy Lesage	705-257-8001	<a href="mailto:dlesage@gardenriver.org">dlesage@gardenriver.org</a>
GR Aggregates	705-254-2657	Warren Boissoneau	705-941-8576	<a href="mailto:wboissoneau@gardenriver.org">wboissoneau@gardenriver.org</a>
Silver Creek Golf Course	705-942-2080	TJ Boissoneau		<a href="mailto:tj@golfsilvercreek.com">tj@golfsilvercreek.com</a>
Ojibway Park	705-248-1520	Amy Sayers	705-206-3070	<a href="mailto:amysayers@gardenriver.org">amysayers@gardenriver.org</a>
Bingo Hall	705-253-8718	Amy Sayers	705-206-3070	<a href="mailto:amysayers@gardenriver.org">amysayers@gardenriver.org</a>
GR Fire Department	705-253-1870	Steve Nolan	705-254-8092	<a href="mailto:snolan@gardenriver.org">snolan@gardenriver.org</a>
GR Child Care Center	705-256-5600	Belinda Camara		<a href="mailto:bcamara@gardenriver.org">bcamara@gardenriver.org</a>
ERCD	705-946-6300	Darlene Solomon	705-542-5747	<a href="mailto:dsolomon@gardenriver.org">dsolomon@gardenriver.org</a>
GR Lands Department	705-253-0225	Alexis Vanderheyden	705-542-1786	<a href="mailto:avanderheyden@gardenriver.org">avanderheyden@gardenriver.org</a>
GR ASETS	705-256-5413	Wanita Jones	705-971-8322	<a href="mailto:wjones@gardenriver.org">wjones@gardenriver.org</a>

Additionally, if you have any general public health concerns, questions or inquiries directly related to COVID-19, please reach out to:

- Jessica Grawbarger, Wellness Center Manager, Cell: 705-971-4204
- Tanya Boissoneau, Executive Assistant, Cell: 705-971-7833
- Wellness Center Nursing Station, Ph: 1-249-525-6459
- Algoma Public Health Unit, Ph: 705-759-5404

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Anne Headrick, Executive Director

