

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road
Cutler ON, POP 1B0



Telephone: (705) 844-2418
Facsimile: (705) 844-2757

Briefing Note

Date: May 22, 2020

Prepared for: Serpent River First Nation Community Members & Community Partners

Issue: Briefing of Press Conferences – Provincial/National COVID-19 announcements.

Purpose: To inform Serpent River First Nation Community, Council and community partners on recent developments on COVID-19 for May 22, 2020.

Current Status (COVID-19)

Status updates about [COVID-19 \(novel coronavirus\)](#) will be posted as new developments arise.

To protect the identity of individuals, and to comply with privacy law, Algoma Public Health does not provide name or address information for people who test positive for COVID-19. Where there are important exposures in the community or on flights, Algoma Public Health will provide the times and locations on this webpage.

Status of cases in the Algoma district

NEW - (May 8, 2020, 12:00 pm) - These numbers now include testing that was completed at long-term care homes (LTCH) in the Algoma district as part of the province's one-time surveillance testing initiative. Staff and residents of all Algoma LTCHs have completed one-time surveillance testing.

- These data sets are preliminary and subject to change, pending further review.
- Confirmed positives will be reported as soon as publicly available.

Tested (1)	6,099
Positive	20
Negative	5,770
Pending (2)	309
Deceased	0
Resolved (3)	13
Updated: May 22, 2020 (8:30 a.m.)	

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- (1) That Algoma Public Health is aware of.
- (2) Number of people who have been tested but do not have a result yet.
- (3) Patient tested positive but is resolved according to current public health criteria. This number includes any persons who are deceased.

Total confirmed cases by area of residence

Algoma Region	Any residents who have tested positive for COVID-19?	Any evidence of local community spread?
Central & East Algoma	Yes (less than 5)	Possible/Likely: evidence of community spread is present in other areas of Algoma and in neighbouring public health units
Elliot Lake & Area	Yes (less than 5)	Possible/Likely: evidence of community spread is present in other areas of Algoma and in neighbouring public health units
North Algoma	No	Possible/Likely: evidence of community spread is present in other areas of Algoma and in neighbouring public health units
Sault Ste. Marie & Area	Yes (16)	Yes
Updated: May 16, 2020 (4:50 p.m.)		

Note: The following describes the municipalities and First Nation communities included in each Algoma sub-region. This is not an exhaustive listing of geographic places within Algoma.

Central & East Algoma includes: Blind River, Bruce Mines, Hilton, Hilton Beach, Huron Shores, Jocelyn, Johnson, Mississauga First Nation, Plummer Additional, St. Joseph, Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional, The North Shore, Thessalon, Thessalon First Nation

Elliot Lake & Area includes: Elliot Lake, Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation, Serpent River First Nation, Spanish

North Algoma includes: Dubreuilville, Michipicoten First Nation, Missinabie Cree First Nation, Wawa, White River

Sault Ste. Marie & Area includes: Batchewana First Nation, Garden River First Nation, Laird, Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional, Prince, Sault Ste. Marie

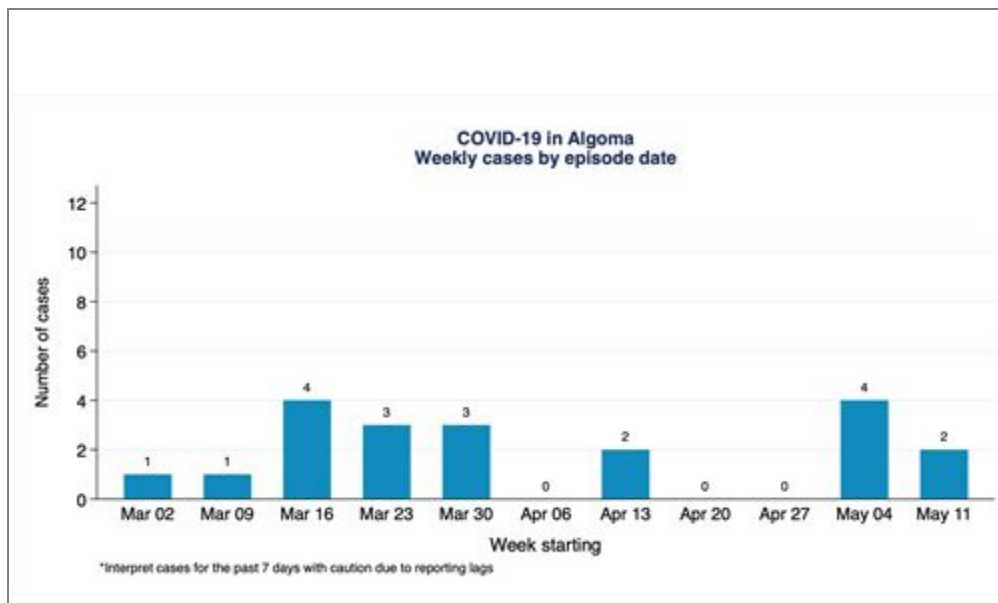
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COVID-19 outbreaks

Facility Name	Facility Type	Date outbreak declared	Status	Important exposure information
Extendicare - Maple View	Long-term care	May 6, 2020	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals with possible close contact exposure at the facility have been notified Contact Algoma Public Health at 705-759-5404 if you are concerned that you may have been affected.

Weekly cases by episode date



Episode date is intended to approximate symptom onset date. It is calculated based on the date of symptom onset, specimen collection/test date, or the date reported to public health.

- To view epidemiologic trends and case break down by demographic factors such as age and sex, visit [Public Health Ontario's COVID-19 Data Tool](#). This tool allows you to view COVID-19 data for Ontario overall, as well as for an individual public health unit.
- The province of Ontario also publishes a daily epidemiologic summary report, [accessible here](#), which provides provincial and regional data on confirmed cases, demographics and trends of cases since the outbreak began including geography, exposure and severity.

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As of 4:00 pm Thursday May 21st, 2020

- Globally: 5,156,742 cases (+73,331); 332,488 deaths (+3,249); 2,057,549 recovered
- US: 1,609,921 (+17,198), 95,836 deaths (+900)
- Russia: 317,554 (+8,849), 3,099 deaths (+127)
- Brazil: 296,113 (+2,756), 19,156 deaths (+262)
- Canada: 81,277 cases (+1,135), 6,145 deaths (+114).
- Ontario: 24,187 cases (+413); 1,993 deaths (+31),
 - o 18,509 recovered (+319), 3,685 active cases (+63)

Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:

Ministry of Health Emergency Operating Center (MEOC) COVID-19 Conference Call

- Large daily increases seen in:
 - o Brazil, Russia, Chile, Peru, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, & Mexico.
- Increase of 413 cases which is higher than 390 reported yesterday but lower than 427 reported from two days ago. Will be further investigating to determine why we are seeing increases over the past couple days.
- Increase of 31 deaths which is a little less than the day prior.
- Tested 7382 people since yesterday – increase from previous day; 4444 results pending.
- Positivity rate down from 8% yesterday to 6% today.
- Reproductive number at 0.9 which indicates the outbreak is shrinking.
- Hospitals: under 1000 patients; no new outbreaks (78 total); 3086 cumulative cases; decrease of 5 cases in critical care (155 total); decrease of 3 cases on ventilators (117 total) – several days of decreases. Total number of patients (COVID-19 and non COVID-19 cases) on ventilators gone up to 565, which means we are close to 80% capacity.
- Long-term Care (LTC) Homes: outbreaks decreased by 8 (175 total); resolved increased by 9 (109 total); 25 more resident deaths; 1 new staff death; case counts are going down for both residents and staff.

Briefing Note 2

- Retirement Homes: outbreaks increased by 1 (64 total); resolved increased by 2 (70 total); 3 more resident deaths (184 total); staff case counts are down and resident cases have gone up by a small amount.
- Healthcare workers: increase of 67 cases (4178 cumulative total); increase of 3 hospitalizations (155 cumulative total) – number is going up 1-5 cases daily; no change in critical care cases (37 total).
- Announcement yesterday regarding advice to the public on face coverings.
- Memo of Tuesday, May 19, 2020 command table can be found here.
- Continuing to work on updating directive #2 – key priority.
- Internal conversations on next steps with testing. This is over and above the announcement from last week that any Ontarian with symptoms can be tested.
- Working on Public Health measures for the next stage of reopening – more details coming next week.
- Continuing efforts to support LTC homes in outbreak and planning how to assist them.

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DAILY NUMBERS:

Testing:

Total tests completed: 577,682

Total tests completed in the previous day: 10,506

Currently under investigation: 5,051

Hospitalizations:

Number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19: 984

Number of patients in ICU with COVID-19: 155

Number of patients in ICU on a ventilator with COVID-19: 177

Ministry of Long-Term Care Daily Report²

Outbreaks in LTC Homes: 175

Confirmed Cases for LTC Residents: 2458

Confirmed Cases for LTC Staff: 1564

Total confirmed LTC resident deaths: 1452

Total confirmed LTC staff deaths: 6

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Press Conference

- Focused on supporting Indigenous peoples since day one. Have been engaging with First Nation, Inuit, and Métis leadership to ensure communities get support.
- Realize that we need to adapt approaches and programs to meet the needs of all Indigenous peoples including those living off-reserve and in urban settings.

Briefing Note 3

- Previously announced \$15 million in funding for organizations that serve off-reserve and urban Indigenous populations – this money has helped organizations provide meals, clothing, hygiene items, personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, mental health supports, computers and laptops, cell phones, and more. The funding has also helped vulnerable populations like youth, seniors, and women.
- These organizations do crucial work and their services are in high demand, which is why it is critical to make sure they have the resources they need.
- Announcing an additional \$75 million in funding for organizations that address the critical needs of Indigenous peoples in urban and off-reserve settings.
- Need to follow Public Health measures – as Dr. Tam announced yesterday it is now recommended that Canadians where face coverings or non-medical masks whenever physical distancing may be difficult to maintain.

Question: Reporting that a 2nd wave might hit in the fall and many people may not enter a second lockdown. Is this something you are worried about?

Response: We know that in pandemics there are often 2nd waves. We are focused on as we see resurgences how quickly we can contain and control them. And that comes down to testing and contact tracing, which is why the federal government has extended support to the provinces and territories in

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massively ramping up testing and contact tracing. Everyone also needs to make sure that they are following strict Public Health measures to prevent any outbreaks that may cause another lockdown.

Federal Ministers and Health Officials Press Conferences

- 41,108 (51%) cases are recovered.
- Over 1,377,000 people tested across Canada to date – 5% positivity test rate.
- Testing on average 28,000 people daily across Canada.
- Numbers change quickly and are updated daily.
- The federal government has responded to urban Indigenous organizations with an additional \$75 million in funding, which marks a 5-fold increase in funding.
- Initial \$15 million from Indigenous Community Support Fund went to 94 organizations that have been supporting important work but we recognize that wasn't enough.
- Cases are starting to stabilize in First Nation communities and the curve is flattening.
- 201 on-reserve cases; 156 are recovered.

Question: How will the \$75 million be divided up?

Response: The \$75 million will be divided up according to submissions that have already been received. It is a question of allocating remaining amounts to organizations that applied and did not receive anything or increasing current amounts to organizations that received funding. These are decisions that will be taken by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and taken in an expedient fashion, and in an equitable fashion.

Question: Why did it take 2 months before announcing more money?

Response: Underfunding from federal, provincial, and municipal levels has been going on for a long time. We knew going into the pandemic that we needed to deploy money and resources into communities. The relationship with ISC historically deals with band and council so that was a funding stream with a different level of maturity than urban organizations. We wanted to get that amount out early to First Nation communities. It is clear that duties relating to Indigenous people living on-reserve is the responsibility of the federal government. With urban and off-reserve populations, jurisdictions with provinces creates a level of complexity. We know there are some organizations that have fallen through the cracks and that by opening up an ask process we would get many more asks. It required some work internally and advocacy to make sure we could secure the funds needed to distribute.

Question: How the funding will be rolled out – using the past application pile? What was the total number of applications and the sum of what was requested?

Response: We received dozens of applications – a number of them expressing an incredible need to serve Indigenous populations off reserve - which is roughly 50% of the Indigenous population. We will be looking at the applications we received but obviously the situation has changed. As we look at how to allocate in an equitable fashion, we will have to reflect the fact those applications came in weeks ago and the situation in Canada has changed and there might different communities with different needs. We will be re-evaluating and reassessing – haven't allocated anything yet.

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Premier Doug Ford's Press Conference

- Ontario moving forward with innovative research to prevent, detect and treat COVID.
 - These projects, part of the \$20 million Ontario COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund, focus on vaccine development, diagnostics, drug trials and development, and social sciences.
 - Ontario leading country with 22 clinical trials investigating COVID vaccines & treatments.
 - "Ontario is leading the nation in the battle to defeat this deadly virus.... There is no reason why a new rapid testing method, vaccine or treatment cannot be found right here in Ontario.
 - Ontario is funding 15 high-quality and promising proposals to fight COVID-19.
 - Research to prevent, detect and treat COVID-19 is a key component in our fight against the virus.
- These projects and clinical trials will contribute to both our local and global efforts to understand how COVID-19 is evolving and inform the health system.

Provincial Press Releases May 21st, 2020

Ontario Leading COVID-19 Research in Canada. Province Announces First Phase of Research Projects to Fight COVID-19. May 21st, 2020, 1:00 P.M.

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