Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa 1720 Big Lake Rd.

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Reservation Business Committee



Chairman Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr.

Secretary/Treasurer Ferdinand Martineau, Jr.

Dist. I Representative Wally J. Dupuis

Dist. II Representative Bruce M. Savage

Dist. III Representative Roger M. Smith, Sr.

Executive Director. Tribal Programs Miyah M. Danielson

Executive Director, Tribal Enterprises **Terry Savage**

March 13th, 2020

Dear Band Members, Community Members, and Employees:

With the increased number of the confirmed Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases within Minnesota, the Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee (RBC) has been closely monitoring the situation and has been following the recommendations of the Fond du Lac Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Team, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Center for Disease Control and Protection (CDC). It is imperative to inform the community with up to date information on this virus and be prepared.

The Situation Update for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is as follows:

The COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that is thought to spread mainly from person-toperson contact through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing, but it may also spread through airborne transmission when tiny droplets remain in the air, as well as from touching contaminated surfaces or objects. Due to the unique health factors of our community, we are taking extra precautions for elders and people with chronic conditions in our planning and preparations. Below are simple prevention actions you can take to help prevent the spread of this virus:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick (keep a distance of about six feet)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- If you are sick, stay home to rest and get well
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough/sneeze and then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily; this includes counters, doorknobs, light switches, bathrooms, etc.
- If you are experiencing any symptoms, or if you are concerned you have been in contact with someone who is ill, the PHEP team recommends that you quarantine yourself from the community and call your health care provider.

What we have done so far:

The Human Services Division (HSD) has activated the PHEP Team, which has been monitoring the situation for the past month and developing specific protocols and recommendations to maintain critical functions while keeping the community and employees safe. Here is a list of activities that have taken place so far:

- The Law Enforcement Director, Human Services Director, Communications Director,
 Comptroller, and Executive Directors are developing protocols to ensure essential services and programs continue to meet community member needs
- Development and training of a COVID-19 screening flow chart, training and collaboration for the HSD
- Weekly updates from the HSD based upon the most recent CDC and MDH information
- The FDL PHEP Team will continue collaboration efforts between various government health departments and all-state/regional governments to coordinate services and responses
- Restricted out-of-state travel and limited in-state travel
- Developing and distributing COVID-19 prevention information and updates
- All programs will work closely with the PHEP Team to deploy staff and resources to assist if an
 event or emergency is declared
- HSD is updating the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan for specific COVID-19 protocols
- Working with the Information Technology (IT) to develop protocols for remote work sites to
 ensure services continue if a mandatory quarantine is enacted by the Reservation Business
 Committee during a reservation-wide state of emergency
- Reviewing recommendations for cancelling or postponing community events, and limiting visitors to elderly congregate living units

The RBC is taking necessary steps to be prepared should this issue become a more significant concern for the Fond du Lac community. If you have any questions or concerns about the Coronavirus or other Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) or other general questions, please contact the COVID-19 Hotline 651-201-3920 Monday – Friday from 7 am to 7 pm.

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Chairman Kevin Dupuis Sr.

Additional Resources:

Information about the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html

Persons at High Risk:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html