

Daily Updates

Important notes

Emergency Operation Center (EOC) hotline (218) 878-7175 or for a written update from the EOC:
<http://fdlrez.com/downloads/EOCupdates32220.pdf>

Min No Aya Win's (MNAW) hours of operations are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. NO WALK-IN APPOINTMENTS.

Pharmacy is now offering curbside delivery. Park in the designated spot and call the number on the sign.

Meals for Elders and children, contact your community center for more details. CCC (218) 878-2661 or BCC and SCC (218) 878-8042

Face mask donations needed, if you have any questions please call (218) 878-3529
Fond du Lac Gas & Grocery, Aaniin, and Propane still open, FDLGG has limited hours (7 a.m.-7 p.m. M-F, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.), Aaniin and Propane remain open for service.

Election postponed, Primary June 9. General Election Aug. 18.

FDLHSD's community events are cancel until June 30

Veteran's Housing, please refrain from visiting to help flatten the curve

Enrollee Days and Veteran's Powwow have been cancelled for 2020.

More masks needed

Fond du Lac EOC is seeking face mask donations from the community and staff. If you want to donate please call (218) 878-7175. If you want to help but need material please call the EOC and staff can look into inventory and see what can be provided!

As a reminder, if you have to go out please wear a face mask. Protect yourself, your family and others!

Please call the number above if you wish to donate!

The virus hasn't gone anywhere

By Zachary N. Dunaiski

On May 13, Governor Walz announced that the Stay at Home order in Minnesota was going to be allowed to expire Monday, May 18. Fond du Lac, which has been a step ahead of the state, is a sovereign nation and we will make our decisions based on information from our medical experts as well as national medical experts.

At this time, Fond du Lac's Stay at Home order is still in effect. We are continuing to make policies and decisions based off the medical expert's advice and what they're saying is, we aren't out of the woods yet.

Dr. Charity Reynolds, Fond du Lac's Medical Director, addressed the community via a Facebook PSA and wanted to let everyone know that the governor's order doesn't mean we should change what we're doing.

"The governor is lifting the stay at home order. What he is calling it is 'turning up the dial' on things, meaning that some businesses can open, stay at home has been reduced," Dr. Reynolds said. "But for us, what that means is we need to continue our social distancing, stay at home as much as possible, do curbside pickup, avoid large crowds, the recommendation is not more than 10 people, and make sure that we're still wearing masks when we go out."

The governor's order is only an indication that the hospitals have been able to prepare for a surge of COVID-19 patients, some projections predict it will hit in early July, but when the peak comes and how severe it will be is based on many factors and no one can exactly predict. The Stay at Home order gave the medical facilities time to prepare and get Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and make it more likely that the facility has a hospital bed for each case during the peak.

"The virus hasn't gone anywhere but the economy needs to open up again

and the other thing is hospitals are a little bit more ready to take people as people get sick," Dr. Reynolds said. "Those are the reasons why the state is opening up again. If we are not cautious the way we have been, the way we have avoided virus and avoided being sick, if we are not taking these precautions, wearing masks, social distancing, avoiding large crowds, and washing our hands, we're going to get sick and we're going to go to those hospital beds that have just opened up."

Dr. Reynolds also emphasized that we need to continue to do the hard work of staying away and staying smart.

"Please continue to stay at home. Continue to wear your masks at all times. The community is doing a great job at this. We have not tested any positive cases here on the Reservation," Dr. Reynolds said. "We have not seen an outbreak, and we don't want and outbreak. So please continue to listen to the public health officials, stay home and protect our Elders."

During Dr. Reynold's PSA, she was asked about FDL's services, and when they will continue.

"We are working toward opening up services, but we want to make sure that we are doing it safely," Dr. Reynolds said. "As things open up and people are going to need those services, which means more people are going to be in the area, we have to make sure we're maintaining social distancing. We have to make sure that there is a process for it and more importantly making sure that everyone is safe with what is called personal protective equipment."

As Fond du Lac does offer more services again, particularly people have been asking about dental, optical, and chiropractic, that need for PPE is only going to grow.

"For example dental is a big one, and they do a lot of procedures in the mouth," Dr. Reynolds stated. "In our mouth we have our mucus membranes

where the virus lives. If they're putting a machine in there that is making a lot of spit spray everywhere, that is going to increase that virus to go everywhere. So we need to make sure that we're protecting the patient and protecting the staff so that the staff can take care of more people."

To make sure they're safe, dentists, dental hygienists, and other staff will need proper surgical masks, proper face shields, goggles, gowns, gloves, and anything else they might need. Fond du Lac will open other services soon, and just asks that the community be understanding.

"If you think about it, we normally have great amazing services for everybody, but there are so many of those services which means that's a lot of personal protective equipment that we don't have yet," Dr. Reynolds said. "We're working on it and we're going to open as soon as we can, but please be patient with us."

During this time while we wait for the services to return, Dr. Reynolds wanted to remind you that while you might not be able to be seen in person, there are still other options.

"It is going to be a slow process because we want to be safe. We ask for your patience and we are keeping the community in mind," Dr. Reynolds said. "We really want to provide you these services and we have a lot of services we can provide via telehealth. So if you have a dental emergency, you can talk to a dentist on the phone and of course talk to any doctor or nurse practitioner or physician's assistant on the phone."

The COVID-19 pandemic is still very dangerous. Just because states and federal governments are easing back on restrictions doesn't mean we can return to life as normal. We still need to be diligent, smart, and at times make the difficult decision to stay away and stay home. If we do our part, we can keep our community safe.