

Daily Updates

General election during COVID-19

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic will still be with us when the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe general election is held on Aug. 18. In order to reduce traffic at the polls, Band members are encouraged to vote by absentee ballot or to vote early at the Election Office in the District I Cloquet Community Center. The Election Office will be

open during regular business hours beginning Aug. 10-14, and then election day, Tuesday Aug. 18.

Polling places in all districts (Cloquet, Sawyer, Brookston) will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Polling places are community centers in Districts I (Cloquet), II (Sawyer), and III (Brookston).

Beginning on Aug. 10 through Aug. 14, Election staff will be in the election office at the District I Community Center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. You can stop by to vote early!

If you do need to vote at the polling place on Aug. 18, please continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands, and use

hand sanitizer. There will be COVID Screening in place and there will be an option for curbside voting at each district site.

The count will take place at the Cloquet Community Center. Again we will be only allowing 1 candidate and or representative to be present during the count. This process will be available for live viewing on

the Fond du Lac Reservation Facebook page.

If you have questions or would like an absentee ballot request form, please call Naomi Northrup at (218) 409-4673 or (218) 878-2662, or email naominorthrup@fdlrez.com. You can also use the form that is available on the Fond du Lac Reservation website.

FDL's COVID testing

Fond du Lac Human Services COVID-19 Situational Update as of August 11, 2020: Of the 802 patients tested at Min No Aya Win and CAIR: -772 Negative Tests

-24 Pending Tests (sent to external lab)
-6 Positive Tests

TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL SENDOUT	TOTAL IN-HOUSE	MNAW TOTAL	CAIR TOTAL	TOTAL NEGATIVE	TOTAL POSITIVE	ESKO POSITIVE	CLOQUET POSITIVE	SENDOUT PENDING
802	315	487	644	158	772	6	1	5	24

FDLOS Phase 1 of school year

The Fond du Lac Ojibwe School (FDLOS) will begin the 2020-21 school year as the previous school year ended: Phase I (100 percent distance learning) until further notice. The official statement from FDLOS Superintendent Jennifer Murray is included below.

Aniin,

I'm sorry to have to dial back to Phase One of our Reopening Plan. As schools have opened around the world and the U.S., Covid-19 has been spreading in schools and in sports at alarming rates.

I have consulted with the medical staff (PHEP Team) and sought support from our Tribal Government to dial back to

Phase One. The Ojibwe School would love to have all our students and staff return to in-person class. However, due to the pandemic and it's ever changing path we can no longer say it is safe for our children, families, and staff to return to in-person classes.

As Covid-19 cases continually increase in our area, we need to protect our community. We will be notifying families that we will start the school year with Distance Learning. We will continue to deliver meals to our students and increase our effectiveness teaching students online. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. And please stay healthy!

1 in 3 don't show symptoms

Studies are showing that 30-45% of people who have COVID-19 do not show symptoms. Wear a mask in public, wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, and

keep up social distancing. Anyone could have the virus, including you. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html>



Daily Updates

U.S. purchases half a billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine

By Zachary N. Dunaiski

News yesterday broke that Russia was the first to complete their vaccine trials, despite the fact that they started well after many other countries. Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) since 1984, expressed a great deal of doubt around whether or not Russia could have a safe and effective vaccine already.

“I hope that the Russians have actually, definitively proven that the vaccine is safe and effective,” Fauci said via an interview with National Geographic in a virtual panel set to air in a special on Thursday 1 p.m. ET. “I seriously doubt that they’ve done that.”

Every country has been racing to have the first effective vaccine to put an end to this pandemic, but the outcry from the medical professionals around the world after Russia’s announcement should make us all wonder about how well this Russian vaccine was tested.

Meanwhile in the United States, President Donald Trump said yesterday that the federal government has reached a deal with Moderna to purchase 100 million doses of their vaccine as soon as it has completed human testing.

Currently Moderna’s experimental drug is in the late-stages of human trials that have been testing 30,000 individuals, and that study is believed to

be completed by as early as October. The U.S. Government via the Department of Health and Human Services, which already invested \$955 million with Moderna, struck a deal worth \$1.53 billion for the 100 million doses of their vaccine. The total \$2.53 billion in tax payer money also gives the government the option to purchase another 400 million doses of Moderna’s vaccine when it becomes available.

The president also stated that the National Guard is ready to deliver the vaccine to the public when it becomes available.

The government also has deals with Pfizer and biotech firm BioNTech (that deal is worth \$1.95 billion for 100 million doses and an option for 500 million more), Johnson & Johnson (\$1 billion for 100 million and an option for 200 million more), and Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline (\$2.1 billion for 100 million doses and an option for 500 million more).

These deals are all just part of “Operation Warp Speed” an effort to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of vaccines and treatments to fight the coronavirus. That’s \$7.58 billion towards 400 million doses of the vaccine with options to purchase up to 1.6 billion more doses.

For the approximate 328 million Americans, that is enough for every American to have six doses if all of the options for more dosage is purchased by

the government. This amount of the vaccine seems like a good safety precaution, but also feels like a way for Americans to have to pay twice for a vaccine.

“We appreciate the confidence of the U.S. government in our mRNA vaccine platform and the continued support,” Moderna CEO Stephane Bancel said in a press release.

Bancel had also said earlier this month via an earnings call that the company would price its vaccine “well-below value” during the pandemic period and will price it at market value once the virus is under control.

As COVID-19 appears more and more to be endemic, meaning it will keep returning year after year, the price

that they determine after the pandemic is over will be very important.

Sources: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/fauci-doubts-russias-covid-19-vaccine-safe-effective/story?id=72309297> and <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/08/11/trump-says-us-has-reached-deal-with-moderna-for-100-million-doses-of-coronavirus-vaccine.html>

1 in 3 people
with COVID-19
doesn't have symptoms.



STAY SAFE MN