

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota health officials confirms Fond du Lac Band Member living in Minneapolis test positive for COVID-19

Fond du Lac Reservation, Cloquet, MN (June 9th, 2020) Fond du Lac Human Services Division (FDL HSD) was notified late afternoon, June 8th, 2020 of a positive COVID-19 case of a Fond du Lac Band member who lives and receives services at Mino-Bimaadizi Waakaa'igan in Minneapolis. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is working with FDL HSD.

MDH will be conducting contact investigation and tracing to identify all person(s) with close contact of the positive COVID-19 Fond du Lac member; Human Services Division will be working with MDH to ensure that all individuals in close contact are notified and tested.

The Band's clinic and emergency management personnel have been preparing for this, according to Fond du Lac Human Services Director Samuel Moose. "Our Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) team has been meeting since January in regards to COVID-19 and will continue to monitor this situation with up to date guidance and information from MDH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as we plan for any cases on or near the Reservation," Moose said.

Fond du Lac Chairman Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr., emphasized that the Band has persevered through challenges before. "We know this is a time of anxiety, but we will get through this," Dupuis said. "Although it feels like we are navigating through uncharted territory, there is one thing that is not unprecedented, and that is our ability and willingness to rise to meet challenges together and prevail. We always have. This time will be no different."

As a reminder, a majority of positive COVID-19 cases are mild, and individuals have recovered at home. If you develop any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea or whole-body aches please call your healthcare provider to be evaluated for possible COVID-19 testing.

The most important recommendations are:

- Continue to follow Fond du Lac's Stay At Home order, as well as the Governor's Executive Order

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer for at least 20 seconds
- Practice social distancing (6-feet apart from others)
- Wear a mask in public to protect yourself and others
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and wash your hands
- Avoid touching your face or mouth
- Take care of your physical health and mental well-being

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa encourages community members that have health-related questions about COVID-19 call the Fond du Lac Nurse Triage Line at 218-878-2120 or after hour calls to 218-879-1227. Or MDH's hotline (7am-7pm): 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903

Recommended websites for more information about the current situation are:

- Minnesota Department of Health - MDH:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - CDC:

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

- World Health Organization - WHO:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

About Fond du Lac Lake Superior Chippewa

The Fond du Lac Band (Nagaajiwanaang; where the water stops) is one of six Chippewa Indian Bands that make up the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The Fond du Lac Reservation was established by the La Pointe Treaty of 1854.

Archaeologists, however, maintain that ancestors of the present-day Chippewa (Ojibwe) have resided in the Great Lakes areas since 800 A.D. The Band includes 4,200 members.

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