



## COMMUNITY NOTICE

For Immediate Release:

Enniska/February 28, 2020

### **COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING FEB. 28, 2020**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) is continuing to provide updates regarding the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) outbreak as well as the NAV Centre quarantine site.

#### **GENERAL UPDATES**

- The passengers evacuated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship and quarantined at NAV Centre in Cornwall will be released from quarantine on Friday, March 6, 2020.
- 151 people total originally arrived at NAV for quarantine (under the provisions of Canada's Quarantine Act) including 13 crew. The crew members have since been released after it was determined they were not at risk of contracting the virus having followed proper protocols.
- The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation and is provided with daily updates from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit and Public Health Canada.
- MCA's Department of Health conducts daily debriefing sessions with managers and staff to keep the health team apprised of any updates or increased risks to keep the community informed of.
- At this time, regular virus-prevention practices continue to be recommended to avoid the flu and flu-like viruses such as a coronavirus.

#### **EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH UNIT UPDATES**

The following is the EOHU's update from Feb. 27, 2020:

- The quarantine at the NAV CENTRE continued to go smoothly on Thursday, February 27. As of noon on February 27, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 found among people in quarantine at the NAV CENTRE in Cornwall.
- Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam and Deputy Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Howard Njoo held a press conference in Ottawa on Thursday afternoon to give an update on COVID-19. They stated that thus far, Canada has successfully detected and managed individual cases and their contacts to prevent spread within Canada – these efforts will continue. Public health authorities across the country at all levels of government have pandemic preparedness and emergency response plans they are ready to implement, and will continue to elaborate.
- Limiting the Spread of COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases:  
When it comes to preparedness, everyone has a role to play. We can all take simple actions to protect ourselves and prevent others from getting sick – washing our hands frequently, covering our coughs and sneezes, and staying home when sick. Check out this video to learn more about proper hand washing: <http://ow.ly/lc8j50yy0pL>.



- There is No Increased Risk of COVID-19 for NAV CENTRE Staff and Their Families
- The EOHU has sent letters to schools, daycares, long-term care homes and pharmacies with information about COVID-19 and the quarantine at the NAV CENTRE.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA (PHAC) INFORMATION**

- As of February 27, 2020, 13 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Canada. In addition, the Government of Québec reported their first case of COVID-19. The province has sent the presumptive positive sample to the National Microbiology Laboratory for further testing. If confirmed by the laboratory, this would be Canada's fourteenth confirmed case.
- PHAC has assessed the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as low for Canada. Public health risk is continually reassessed as new information becomes available.
- The risk to Canadian travellers abroad is generally low but will vary depending on the destination. The Public Health Agency of Canada is closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in other countries. Please consult the destination page on [travel.gc.ca](http://travel.gc.ca) for the [latest travel advice](#).

## **WHO DATA/SITUATION REPORT - Posted Feb. 27, 2020**

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports the following statistical data on the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus):

- Globally - 82,294 confirmed cases of COVID-19
- China - 78,630 confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Deaths in China: 2747 confirmed
- Outside of China - 3664 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in 46 countries
- Deaths outside of China - 57

## **WHO RISK ASSESSMENT**

- China: Very High
- Regional Level: High
- Global Level: High

## **WHO RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC**

During previous outbreaks due to other coronavirus (Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)), human-to-human transmission occurred through droplets, contact and fomites, suggesting that the transmission mode of the COVID-19 can be similar.

The basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

# MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Sustaining our inherent rights, facing challenges together, and building a strong and healthy future.



- Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).
- Within health care facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.

WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers. In case of symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel, travellers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their health care provider.