



Good afternoon Chimnissing,

There are some important updates to share today. Cases of COVID-19 are quickly rising and have impacted many services to our community.

Effective today program closures have been announced for BFN; these include Christian Island Elementary School, Beausoleil Day Care Centre and Mna Bmaadzijig before/after school care. Impacted families will have received guidance for alternative and online learning. All essential services will be reduced to 75% operating hours onsite. Tentative return date is April 25th, 2022.

All staff will receive updates and guidelines from your direct supervisor and administration.

Any other operational changes will be announced as they take place i.e. transportation. Schedules have been updated already to reflect staff shortages and repairs needed. The weather has not been on our side this week, hopefully the ice and wind conditions will continue to improve.

As previously stated the mask mandate is firmly in place until April 27th, and subject to review after this date. Services will now be refused to those who do not follow this guideline without a valid medical reason. Continue to wear your masks while on board the Chimnissing Transit bus, Indian Maiden and all public buildings.

It is incumbent upon all of us as community members to continue practicing our basic safety protocols of masking and sanitizing. Those who have entered self isolation please follow your guidance until the end of your full isolation period.

If you have tested positive you must isolate for 10 days from the day you test positive.

- If you have a positive in your house but you are negative and continue to test negative you isolate for 5 days and on the 6th day (with a negative test result) you can return to work and must continue to test for the remaining 5 days (5 days isolation followed by 5 days testing).
- If you are in close contact (but not within your household), you may self monitor and test daily but continue to attend work unless you test positive.

Visits to Beausoleil First Nation are limited to your immediate family and spouses/partners at this time. If you have been previously notified by Chief and Council and/or Anishinabek Police Service that you are not permitted on BFN Territory because of on-going criminal activity, this will continue to be enforced.

A request has been made to Simcoe Muskoka Health District Unit to assist with a community PCR testing clinic. Formal updates with regards to case counts cannot be accurately provided at this time. With multiple households, various BFN departments and essential services all having been impacted; it is our hope to contain this latest outbreak and prevent it from affecting our children and vulnerable members any further.

The Omicron Ba.2 variant is highly transmissible, regardless of vaccination status and previous infection. The fourth booster is now available to the Indigenous population and is recommended for further protection against COVID-19 and its long term effects. To receive your fourth dose, it must have been 84 days from your last dose if you are over the age of 18. For a third dose in the 11-17 year old age group it must be 168 days after your second dose.

BA.2 Variant symptoms are very similar to a typical cold and/or flu. If you are feeling unwell, please stay home and take a rapid antigen tests while self monitoring. Symptoms are

- Runny nose, Sneezing
- Headache, Fatigue
- Sore throat, Persistent cough
- Hoarse voice
- Chills or shivers
- Fever
- Dizziness
- Brain fog
- Muscle pains
- Loss of smell
- Chest pain

Respectfully yours,

The Emergency Operations Team

