

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Officials Confirm First COVID-19 Cases On the Fond du Lac Reservation

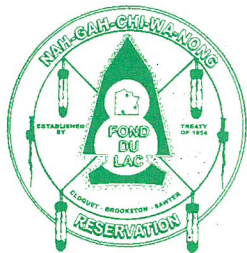
Fond du Lac Reservation, Cloquet, MN (August 5th, 2020) – The Fond du Lac Human Services Division (FDL HSD) was notified early evening on August 4th, 2020 of three lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive cases. Two of the infected patients live within the Fond du Lac Reservation; the third patient was tested at the Center for American Indian Resources (CAIR) clinic in Duluth, MN. These are the first documented cases of COVID-19 positive patients living within the reservation. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is working with FDL HSD on next steps to take to mitigate the infections' impact on the community.

“Our Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) team has been meeting daily since COVID-19 was first detected in the United States,” says Samuel Moose, the Band’s Human Services Director. “We have been seeing an increase in cases with younger people throughout the state and country, and this is largely due to risky behavior, like gathering in large crowds and not observing social distancing guidelines. We urge everyone to stay home and not engage in high-risk activities. We will do all we can to get the community members recovery support, assist in contact tracing, and continue to educate on the seriousness of this pandemic.”

According to Fond du Lac Chairman Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr., “The Band members, personnel and surrounding communities have been doing everything to keep this virus away. Unfortunately, this virus knows no boundaries. Now that we have these first confirmed cases within the Fond du Lac Reservation, we must remain vigilant in the fight against this virus. We are encouraging all Minnesotans to continue to take care of one another, stay home, and take extra precautions as this virus enters our homeland.”

There will be a public service announcement with the Reservation Business Committee, Medical Director, and the Human Services Director on the Fond du Lac Human Services Facebook page later today at 10:00 a.m.

If you develop any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste, or body aches please call your healthcare provider to be evaluated for possible COVID-19 testing.



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Dist. III Representative
Roger M. Smith, Sr.

Executive Director,
Tribal Programs
Miyah M. Danielson

Executive Director,
Tribal Enterprises
Terry Savage

The most important recommendations are:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer
- Practice social distancing (6-feet apart from others)
- Stay home if you are not feeling well
- Avoid large gatherings
- 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

FDL community members that have COVID-19 health-related questions can call the Fond du Lac Nurse Triage Line at 218-878-2120 or after hours call 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 \(MDH\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

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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