



## Chippewas of Georgina Island

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### Covid-19 Response

The recent decision by the World Health Organization to classify Covid-19 as a pandemic and the resulting cancellations of numerous public events and social institutions has led Chief and Council to address concerns regarding what this means for our community.

Our first steps will be to reduce the chances of infection for our community members.

Following the province's lead, we will be closing Waabgon-Gamig School and Niigaan-Naabiwag Childcare Centre until April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

As a precautionary measure for our Elders, we will also be cancelling the 50+ dinners until April 5<sup>th</sup> as well. All large community gatherings will also be postponed until that date. Small- group community based programming will still be able to continue.

We are asking community members who have travelled outside the country to self-isolate for 2 weeks upon their return.

All Band Buildings will be cleaned and disinfected, and staff will be required to routinely ensure that their work areas are properly disinfected.

Our Aazhawe crews will be conducting increased disinfection measures and will be receiving instruction on how to limit their chances of contracting the virus. We are discouraging bringing large or non-essential groups of visitors to the island.

We ask our membership to follow all preventative measures being promoted and advertised during this time. Washing your hands often, not touching your face, social distancing and avoiding contact with large crowds. We also ask that travel to areas where the virus may be prevalent be limited. Staying hydrated can also be preventative for any illness.

All membership is asked to limit their in-person visits with their Elders to limit the exposure of this high-risk group.

For healthy people we are informed there is extremely low risk however there are those around us who may have pre-existing conditions making them more vulnerable to illness so please follow these recommendations.

What to do should the virus come to Georgina Island?

Isolation is key! Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms, no matter how mild, need to self-isolate.

Report any flu-like symptoms to Lorna at the Health Centre.

If you are experiencing any difficulty breathing call 911 or attend the nearest ER.

The Public Health website contains information on how to minimize the risk of contracting the virus and what to do if you have related symptoms. This site is updated on a daily basis: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Above all EXERCISE COMMON SENSE! Educate yourselves and family members on proper measures to take and do not fall victim to fear and panic.

These sites can help put things into perspective;

<https://informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/covid-19-coronavirus-infographic-datapack/>

<http://theconversation.com/coronavirus-ten-reasons-why-you-ought-not-to-panic-132941>

Council will continue to monitor the situation and take the necessary steps as required to ensure the safety of our community.

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Chief and Council