



For immediate release
October 30, 2020

Sapotawayak Cree Nation Announces Two COVID-19 Cases: First Nation Moves into Orange (Restricted) Level to Protect Community Members

Treaty Four Territory, Sapotawayak Cree Nation, MB – The Sapotawayak Cree Nation is moving from Yellow to Orange (Restricted) on the province’s pandemic response system effective immediately. As of October 30, 2020, two residents of Sapotawayak Cree Nation have tested positive for coronavirus.

The first case was identified on Friday, October 23, 2020. Due to a health condition, the patient was hospitalized prior to exposure, during testing, and remains hospitalized.

The second case was identified on October 29, 2020.

“Every individual needs to do their part in reducing the spread of this virus in the community,” stated **Sapotawayak Chief Nelson Genaille**. “We are moving to code orange today, an extra precaution to ensure we protect the safety of our community. I am asking community members to remain vigilant and continue to follow public health guidelines of frequent hand washing, wearing a non-medical mask, social distancing, and frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces. If symptoms develop, isolate and please contact the SCNHA nurses for testing.”

Sapotawayak Cree Nation is implementing the following guidelines and recommendations:

- The Neil Dennis Kematch Memorial School, Bertha Gott Daycare, and Jordan’s Principal Respite Center will be closed for two weeks. The expected re-opening date is Monday, November 16, 2020.
- No large gatherings such as weddings, funerals, and recreation within community.
- The Health Office has limitations with Medical Transportation.
- Vision clinic, doctor/nurse practitioner clinics, OT/PT clinics, and mental health Counsellor appointments will continue as scheduled.
- MASKS ARE REQUIRED FOR EVERY PUBLIC LOCATION. NO MASK, NO ENTRY.
- Public buildings precautions:
 - Each office or business has implemented their action plans accordingly to their policies.

- Recommend only head of household leave community for essential goods. Exceptions made for those without a driver's licenses and needing a driver.
- Recommend that no children leave community – exceptions made for recreational, cultural, spiritual, compassionate, and medical reasons.
- Non-resident will be denied entry to the community – Non-residents will be turned away at the check stop, even off-reserve Band members. Essential workers only at this time.
- No hitchhikers – Hitchhikers will be turned around at check stop.
- Recommended curfew for residents from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am daily.

