

# SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

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## MEMO Pandemic Update #2

Dear Serpent River First Nation Community,

I hope everyone had a good week, staying home and practicing social distancing. I wanted to update you via Facebook for now, as we move into this new period of remote work and uncertainty.

The Band Administration is hard at work updating and preparing for the long-term consequences of this Pandemic and we wanted to assure you that services will continue, but possibly in a different manner you are accustomed to.

We wanted to address the concerns around COVID-19 in the community and the previous health memo that had gone out. We want to clarify that it was a precautionary measure and the possible chain of transmission is very weak. We want to clarify that this was a result of a person being a contact of a contact of a person who tested positive. At present time we have not been made aware of any potential COVID-19 infection within the community.

**Please continue to practice social distancing, washing hands and disinfecting common spaces within the home.**

Community Members with questions or in need of emergency assistance are asked to please call the Band Office (1-705-844-2418) and follow the prompts to speak with the appropriate manager. They can direct your questions and concerns to the appropriate place, but we remind community members if you are in severe medical distress that you call 9-1-1.

We will be doing regular weekly updates via facebook live, community mailouts, and next week, we will be doing a one-time door to door delivery of information. At this time we will collect telephone and contact information from individuals who may not have easy access to mail, or internet. Reminder that all COVID-19 information and Administration services will be found in regular community mail-outs, Facebook and [www.serpentriverfn.com](http://www.serpentriverfn.com).

We are reminding community members to remain vigilant during this time, as criminals and scam artists may take advantage of people. At no point is the Red Cross or any other company offering door to door testing on COVID-19.

Below are brief updates on services;

### Education:

- Post-Secondary students are asked to contact Education to update them on your location and if your school is doing online courses. If you need assistance in getting home, please let us know.
- Premier Ford announced that students will not be going back to school on April 6, 2020. No timeline on return was given. Education will be looking at support and information for parents. Stay tuned.

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**Our Vision** *Serpent River First Nation will have self-sufficient people within a community of caring and compassionate families.*

**Our Mission** *Serpent River First Nation will use all available financial, human, natural, technological and cultural resources to achieve self-sufficiency through the efforts of all Community Members. Our strong and unique cultural and spiritual identity will drive us to ensure a healthy community that is safe and secure for all generations.*

**Infrastructure:**

- Infrastructure has gone on emergency services; which means garbage will still be picked up, Water Treatment plants and Fire operations are working, but non-emergency housing repairs will not be dealt with at this time. Please contact 1-705-844-2418 and ask to speak with the Housing Manager if you have an emergency.

**Kenabutch Health Centre:**

- The Health centre is still open but by appointments only and for non-COVID-19 related symptoms. We are asking community members to call ahead to speak with a Health Nurse. Community members who show up without notifying the Health Clinic will be asked to go home and callback . This is to protect both the Health Centre Staff and any other community members who may be receiving services.
- Appointments will also be staggered, to avoid multiple patients sitting in waiting rooms and time for disinfection between visits.

**Administration:**

- Currently Administration buildings are closed to the public including non-essential services, but Community members can call 1-705-844-2418 for more information on services being provided.

**Food Bank:**

- The Food Bank will be providing delivery service only on Wednesday Afternoons, please call 1-705-844-2418 and follow the prompts to Community Development to request assistance.

If we have missed something or you would like more information on services, please contact the band office at 1-705-844-2418.

We want to thank community members for reaching out to each other during this time and checking in, it's really important we keep doing this as a community. Reaching out and calling your Elders from time to time combats loneliness for them and yourself.

It's especially important to help out community members you know are unable to leave the house due to the age, or compromised immune systems. By assisting them with groceries or picking up items for them can help reduce the spread of the infection. Please be mindful of Social Distancing and continue vigilance.

Together in Health,

Chief and Council  
Serpent River First Nation Administration

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