



Community Covid-19 Update – February 22, 2021 at 11:00am

We are happy to report that, as of this morning, there are no active cases of Covid-19 being experienced by any member of GBFN and that there are no further tests results which remain outstanding. However, we continue to remain ever vigilant in ensuring that safety, health and wellbeing of members and staff alike remain the priority, but we are also acutely aware of the needs of FNs who are in dire outbreak situations and have a tremendous number of spiking cases. As such, we have released our previous request for a third surge nurse for GBFN at this time so that the limited nursing resources may be allotted to community's whose needs are greater than ours right now. Should we find ourselves in a position to once again make the request for extra nursing staff and resources, we trust that our plea will be heard with the same timeliness and compassion as it was on February 10th.

The GBFN Covid-19 Assessment Facility ("Igloo") is ready to conduct testing for anyone who may desire it from Monday through Friday. Remember that **appointments for testing in GB are made by contacting the Health Centre in advance** by calling 982-2104 to assist nurses in determining timelines/family members who are requiring testing to be conducted and to ensure that pandemic protocols are followed. Testing is available to GB members, non-registered residents and project contractors to ensure that anyone living and/or working in the community has accessible testing.

The Igloo will also serve as the Vaccination Centre. GBFN has accounted for vaccine availability for every adult 18 and over who reside EITHER in GB or in Thunder Bay and who may wish to take advantage of community-based nursing carried out in a culturally sensitive manner at the KZA Healing Centre. As well, we have requested doses for contractors working on essential-service infrastructure projects (water treatment plant and shoreline remediation). Members may have seen previous information that outlines the priority appointment scheduling categories as follows: (1) Elders 65 years of age and over, (2) those with disability or underlying medical issues making them more vulnerable and their direct caregivers, (3) Adults 18 years of age and over, and (4) Non-status essential project contractors in GBFN. Once we receive notice of our vaccine allotment and dates, we will post notices to arrange appointments. **For reference, a copy of the Covid-19 Vaccine Screening and Consent form is located at www.gbfn.ca** Worth noting is that we are NOT relying solely on web registration to undertake appointment scheduling as we understand the limitations that may prohibit the transfer of vital information in a successful way (potentially due to the lack of access to devices, comfort level in completing fillable electronic forms, etc).

As was noted in the Feb 15th community update that was delivered to all homes and posted on the GBFN webpage, **administrative services will continue to be delivered remotely with staff working from their homes electronically until March 1st** in compliance with the 14-day precautionary period of community self/family isolation and monitoring. Essential services, such as **mail (conducted on Tuesday and Friday of this week), water delivery (Tuesday and Thursday) and garbage pick up (Wednesday)**, are still being carried out, but may be somewhat slower - given that staff are instructed to maintain the required pandemic protocols.

Lastly, we relay our gratitude to all those who work so hard to assist FN leadership in lessening negative impacts to community members on both the health and operational levels. We are so thankful that those affected realized only lesser symptoms and wish them continued good journey on their path to recovery.

Chief Wilfred N. King