



From the office of Chief & Council Ermineskin Cree Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM ERMINESKIN CREE NATION

MARCH 17, 2020 – Maskwacis Health Services (MHS) is monitoring closely as the situation with COVID-19 continues to unfold. As updates occur, MHS will continue to provide updates to Chief and Council. Information received will be forwarded to the ECN Communication to post on the ECN Website and Facebook page.

Protecting the health of Ermineskin Cree Nation citizens from the COVID-19 pandemic is Chief and Council's top priority. Chief and Council are urging all citizens **NOT TO PANIC** and to be assured that steps are being taken from our Management Teams to update the Disaster Plan for Ermineskin Cree Nation.

All ECN citizens are encouraged to do the following as precautionary measures – hand hygiene, staying home when sick, self-isolation and **SOCIAL DISTANCING** measures are critical to limiting the rate of spread and the risk of vulnerable citizens.

As of today's date the following decisions have been made:

- All Community Engagement meetings have been cancelled;
- All programming from Recreation and Community Wellness will be cancelled;
- Staff that are experiencing flu-like symptoms are encouraged to stay home;
- Citizens that are on water cisterns are encouraged to use the water for baths, cooking and not to be wasteful, keeping in mind that water delivery is not available 24 hours.
- Staff members that are experiencing babysitting problems are encouraged to stay home with their children;
- Directors are meeting with Fire Chief and Disaster Services Manager in identifying key Personnel and identifying tasks for each Division;
- NHS staff have been directed to process Income Support cheques this week to enable families to purchase supplies and food;
- The ECN Administration operations will continue to be open until further notice.

Chief and Council will continue to provide regular updates as decisions are made. It is important that we do **NOT PANIC** and work together to take care of the needs of our citizens.