



COMMUNITY UPDATE

TO: GRFN Citizens
FROM: Chief Andy Rickard
DATE: March 18, 2020
RE: COVID-19 Update

Aanii/Boozhoo!

With the first case of COVID-19 surfacing in the Algoma region, we are strongly urging those community members who have visited anywhere outside of the region of Algoma to self-isolate for 14 days. This is not the time to be traveling throughout the community or making unnecessary trips outside of it; unless for an emergency. We do not know the extent of the potential risk that is near us, but we need to take precautionary measures that limit the chances of the virus entering and spreading throughout Garden River.

Our health team has distributed material throughout the community that relies on your commitment and compliance. Please be responsible as we have elders and many others who have underlying health conditions, which make them more susceptible to the virus.

We encourage you to stay put and try to enjoy the comfort of your home during this time. If you need assistance, please reach out to our essential services via phone or email to arrange for help. Someone will assist you as best they can. We do not want to cause panic; we want to be smart and diligent as we exercise extreme caution.

We have two very important meal programs, one spearheaded by our Education staff and the other by our Child Care staff beginning today. Hours and details are posted through our social media channels. Both programs have carefully identified the best approach to limit contact with our members as both teams have only the best interests of our community at heart.

We understand the daily struggles of our families, those living below the poverty line, members on social assistance, those with physical limitations, and those more susceptible to risk due to existing health conditions. We have always pulled together in times of crisis because of the dedication, commitment and love for our community. We are working to ensure we have rations for our members in need through all of our collective efforts including our golf operations, bingo hall and food bank. We will also be accepting donations to keep our supplies healthy. If you are able to donate, please drop off any supplies at the Garden River Fire Department.

We are working diligently to maintain essential services. Please bear with us as we try to navigate these challenging times. We want to ensure we have supports in place and will continue to educate and update our community as we learn of any new information. Let us all do our part to check up on

one another so that no one gets left behind. Please know that our Elders will be called and checked on as well by appropriate staff.

I ask that you please bear with us as we are doing our best based on the unknown and these tumultuous times. This is something NEW for all of us. We are working hard to put continued essential services in place. Be prepared for and please watch out for NEW messaging coming from our community, because as the situation changes, our service delivery strategies may also change. With that being said, this communication will be going door to door as well. If you already have a reusable bag, please keep it outside your door or use the one that will be provided today as there will be new information to be delivered as it becomes available. This way we are using safe measures for delivery and are environmentally cautious. In your package there will be a door sign for use if you are in isolation. Please post on your door if necessary.

In closing, continue to love our children, love your families, love yourself and look after one another. Be safe and stay home.

In the spirit of community and safety,



Chief Andy Rickard

UPDATES TO SERVICES AND CONTACTS

Essential services will continue and include the following:

Garden River Fire Department

Services will continue as is.

EMS (Emergency Medical Services)

Only on duty paramedics and approved personal/contractors are to be permitted entrance to all of EMS bases including the one located in Garden River as they enter a lock down. This order was issued by the Sault Ste Marie Administrative and Social Services department, who are responsible for such services. The directive is to ensure that paramedics are not inadvertently exposed to COVID-19 or exposing the community to COVID-19 as a result of their work. As a health service provider, their paramount concern is to ensure that they maintain sufficient operations and staff to continue to provide emergency medical coverage throughout this situation.

Garden River Public Works

- The GRFN dump is open 24 hours.
- There is no recycling pick up until further notice. Recycling can be dropped off at the designed recycling bins located at GRFN Public Works.
- Garbage pick-ups are running on normal schedule (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

Garden River Water Department

Services will continue as is.

Garden River Wellness Centre/Dan Pine Healing Lodge (restricted accessibility and service)

Niigaaniin and Food Bank (restricted accessibility and service)

- The food bank will be open from Monday to Friday from 1pm to 4pm.
 - Please call ahead if you require this service as there are now safe delivery measures in place. If you have an emergency beyond our limited hours, please do not hesitate to call and we will do our best to provide service. (Phone #'s are listed below)
- If you need to apply for assistance you can call Hali Solomon or contact Christine Jones by email.

Band office:

There is no public access at this time. To access services during closure, please see department contacts. For all other general inquiries, please call (705) 946-2614 or 705-946-6300 (the band office line is currently experience technical difficulties but will soon be running).

DEPARTMENT	MANAGER /Acting	PHONE	EMAIL
Chief	Chief Andy Rickard	(705) 989-5447	arickard@gardenriver.org
Garden River Wellness Centre	Pam Nolan	(705) 946-5710	pnolan@grhc.ca
Garden River Housing Emergency	Greg Solomon	(705) 254-9492	gsolomon@gardenriver.org
Garden River Education Centre	Dianne Roach	(705) 759-1771	dianne.roach@gardenriver.ca
Niigaaniin & Food Bank	Hali Solomon Eileen Thibault Christine Jones	(705) 542-9664 (705) 254-8318	Hasolomon@gardenriver.org ethibault@gardenriver.org cjones@gardenriver.org
Child & Family Services	Luanne Povey	(705) 450-5071	lpovey@grcfs.ca
Water Department	Cody Boissoneau	(705) 971-1210	cmboissoneau@gardenriver.org
Public Works	Darcy Lesage	(705) 257-8001	dlesage@gardenriver.org
Fire Department	Main Line Steve Nolan Cell	(705) 253-1870 (705) 254-8092	
Communications	Amy Sayers	(705) 206-3070	asayers@gardenriver.org



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