



MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE

KENHTEKE KANYEN'KEHÁ:KA

TYENDINAGA MOHAWK COUNCIL,

24 Meadow Drive, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, ON K0K 1X0

Phone 613-396-3424 Fax 613-396-3627

MBQ Operations will be at Reduced Capacity Until Further Notice

December 21, 2021 – The MBQ Community Health Team has been informed by Hastings Prince Edward Public Health that four (4) recent positive COVID-19 cases in the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory have been identified as the Omicron variant. In response to this new threat to public health and safety, and with the safety of our community members, their families and our staff in mind, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Administration will be operating at a reduced capacity for the remainder of 2021, and will remain at a reduced capacity until at least January 17, 2022. This means that starting Wednesday, December 22, in person appointments will be arranged on a case by case basis between staff and their clients. The Daycare, Head Start, Library and Fitness Resource Centre will remain operational at reduced capacity with additional protocols in place until further notice. All staff can still be reached during normal working hours via telephone or email during this period. For our staff directory, please visit mbq-tmt.org/mbq-contacts/.

The Centre for Disease Control states that the Omicron variant spreads more easily than the original COVID-19 virus and at a quicker rate than the Delta variant. The CDC has also indicated that breakthrough cases in individuals that are fully vaccinated are expected. Being fully vaccinated, with your booster if you are eligible, is the best defence against COVID-19, and, is more likely to prevent serious illness or hospitalization.

It is important to note that while the identification of this variant in our community may be a cause for concern, it is not a reason to panic. The community is being urged to use this as a reminder to take extra precautions and follow all COVID-19 safety protocols. Everyone should continue to practice social distancing, wearing a mask whenever you enter an indoor public space and to ensure that washing and sanitizing hands frequently and thoroughly continues to be done.

In a media release Friday, December 17, Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health said, "As the rapidly spreading Omicron variant becomes the dominant strain of COVID-19 in Ontario, it is necessary to apply additional public health and workplace safety measures to reduce transmission, protect our health system and save lives. We all have a role to play in keeping ourselves, friends, families, neighbours and communities safe this holiday season. Please follow all public measures and get vaccinated with your first, second or booster dose if you have not done so already. Omicron will not take a holiday."

At this time, the plan is for all MBQ Administration to return to full capacity, in-person operations on Monday, January 17, 2022. This is a further precaution as families will be gathering for the holidays. As the COVID-19 situation on Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory remains a fluid situation, this target date may change. Further statements will be issued if necessary. Staff will be available to connect with the community when services resume on January 3, 2022.

We wish all MBQ staff and the greater TMT community a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.