



May 26, 2020

**RE: First Known Positive COVID-19 Case on Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation**

The Tribal Council has learned that the first positive COVID-19 case involving a person on the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation was identified today. The family involved is subject to quarantine and contact tracing is being conducted.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community had been lucky that no known cases had been identified on the Reservation prior to this time, but, a positive case was expected at some point due to the nature of this global pandemic. It is a testament to the effectiveness of the Tribe's emergency orders and the community's diligent following of health guidelines that our first case has only just been reported.

The Tribal Council asks that everyone remain supportive and kind to others in our community as we enter these trying times together. The health and welfare of our community depends on cooperation and our remaining diligent in following health guidelines in our interactions with one another and the ongoing monitoring for health changes so that we can quickly identify and flatten the curve of infection.

The only way to fight a pandemic is for people to put the needs of others, if not before their own. It is a novel disease, any one of us is at risk of getting it. We are in this together and we must treat one another with dignity, compassion and understanding. This is the only way we will get through this in a healthy and thoughtful way.

Please remember stigmatization creates another public health problem, which is the mental health impacts of being ostracized. Please continue to pray for the affected family for healing and continued safety of our Community. We have proven that hard work, diligent practices, and discipline work. Our number one objective continues to be the health and wellbeing of our community and to limit the community spread of COVID-19.