

Throughout Wisconsin, positive COVID-19 cases are increasing. We are not immune, with the Stockbridge-Munsee Health and Wellness Center confirming 10 new cases over just the past two weeks. Of those cases:

- One is on tribal lands (reservation)
- Seven are off tribal lands but inside Shawano/Menominee Counties. Six of those cases are related to two households.
- Two are from patients who live outside of Shawano or Menominee counties.
- None of these cases have been contact traced to a Tribal workplace.

In general, most people with COVID-19 report mild to moderate symptoms. However, in others the disease can cause severe medical complications and even death. Older adults or people with chronic medical conditions are at greater risk of becoming seriously ill with COVID-19. Please continue to take precautions to keep you, your family and your neighbors healthy and to reduce the spread of COVID-19. That includes:

- Practicing social distancing (staying 6 feet from others)
- Wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth when you are around others
- Washing your hands frequently
- Staying home if you are sick or suspect that you are sick
- Avoiding avoid large groups, especially those that are indoors or near one another

Since the pandemic began, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community has taken its responsibility to help stop the spread of COVID-19 seriously, going above and beyond recommendations from the CDC and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, including requiring the usage of face masks by all employees and those visiting all tribal businesses and government offices. That includes the North Star Mohican Casino and Resort, Pine Hills Golf Course, Little Star Convenience Store, the Stockbridge-Munsee Health and Wellness Center, as well as all government buildings.

Thanks to these strong policies, and the continued compliance of our employees, we have confidently kept our businesses open and safely continue providing essential services to our members. The effectiveness of policies such as ours was seen when we recently tested all 700 employees and only one recent hire tested positive. Furthermore, there has been no transmission in the workplace to other employees or patrons thanks to strong enforcement of the Tribe's COVID Safety program. Being diligent makes a big difference, and we are renewing our request that these same precautions be followed in your personal life.

We applaud Governor Evers for issuing a statewide mask mandate and strongly encourage all community members to comply. Even if you do not think social distancing or mask wearing is necessary for you, it is for others. By working together, we can keep doing our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community.