



3/20/20 – INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19 NOTIFICATION & TESTING

As previously announced, a non-Seneca employee of the Seneca Nation Health System tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

What Happened: In this specific case, the individual last reported to work at the Seneca Nation Health System on March 12, and showed no symptoms. The individual began to feel ill at home later that evening. The individual HAS NOT returned to work nor to Seneca Territory since leaving work on March 12.

What Happened Next: Since the individual is an Erie County resident, the Seneca Nation Health System has been in contact with Erie County Department of Health. The County is conducting a full epidemiologic study, which includes an interview on symptoms, onset, and travel of the person to identify any potential contacts. The preliminary assessment in this case was that the individual self-quarantined as soon as they developed symptoms and did not show symptoms in the work place. As a result, the Erie County Department of Health has related that there is an **assumed low risk** that they were contagious while at work at the Seneca Nation Health System.

What Happens From Here: The County will notify any individuals who may have come into contact with the individual, as they deem necessary, and the County MAY recommend others for testing or quarantine. A press release from the County will be given for any public areas where the individual may have gone (ie stores, etc.), as they cannot reasonably personally contact all potential individuals who may have been in that location at the same time.

How Testing Works: If individuals are displaying symptoms and/or are concerned, they are to call their primary care provider, who screens them for symptoms, travel, and if they have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The primary care provider then assesses whether they fit guidelines to be tested. This normally involves ruling out other potential causes of the symptoms. If they meet testing guidelines, the county health department receives a referral and further confirms whether they are a candidate for getting tested. The county health department then takes over the case for testing, results, surveillance, etc.

What Everyone Should Do: As the nationwide COVID-19 response continues, it is important that everyone remain calm, remain informed, and follow the suggestions of public health officials, including:

- Remain home except for essential travel
- Limit social in-person interactions and practice social distancing
- Practice good hygiene and wash your hand regularly
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Cover all coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- Keep a clean home environment, including cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched objects and surfaces

The Seneca Nation continues to aggressively monitor the ongoing situations on our territories and within our surrounding communities. We are taking every reasonable precaution to protect the health and wellbeing of our people and our territories, and we will continue to communicate with our Seneca community throughout this public health event.