OLCN MEMBERSHIP RELEASE

# April 15, 2021 for Immediate Release

**COVID19 UPDATE – IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

**COVID-19 Onion Lake Cree Nation Update – Variants of Concern in Lloydminster SK/AB:**

On April 15, 2021 the Onion Lake Health Clinic has confirmed **4 active cases** of COVID-19 as of 10:00 a.m. at our community of Onion Lake and it is critical for everyone to do their part in “social distancing.” COVID-19 variants are spreading quickly throughout Canada and are highly contagious, and a confirmed case has been identified in Lloydminster and Saddle Lake close to our community. **Lloydminster currently has 18 variants of concern of COVID19 as of April 8, 2021**. If anyone travels to major cities like Saskatoon and Edmonton they must get a test as soon as they arrive back in the community and seven days thereafter.

**Possible Public Exposure Update:**

Public Health officials are advising individuals who were at **Quorex Construction Worksite at the New Onion Lake High School on April 1, 2021** were positive for COVID19 and anyone that was at that site must self-monitor for 14 days, and if you have had or develop symptoms of COVID-19, immediately self-isolate and call HealthLine 811, or your community health clinic to arrange for testing. Testing will be available at the Onion Lake Health Centre Monday - Friday. Call 306-500-7260 to arrange for testing in Onion Lake. Contact tracing is underway – Public Health will be contacting anyone considered a close contact and provide direction. Testing continues to be available to anyone who requests it, regardless of whether they have symptoms or not.

* April 1, 2021 Public Service Announcement ISC: Potential COVID-19 exposure at Quorex Construction Worksite at the New Onion Lake High School

**NEW SK Public Health Order Effective April 16, 2021 to April 26, 2021**

* + Mandatory masking province-wide in indoor public spaces
	+ All homes & private dwelling indoor gatherings are limited to a household only.
	+ All homes & indoor gatherings are restricted to immediate household members only.
	+ Caregivers, support personnel and tradespersons who are not a member of the household and not included when determine the maximum number of people allowed.
	+ Outdoor gatherings limited to maximum 10 people (People in attendance must ensure that physical distancing of at least two metres between households is maintained)
	+ Visits to long-term care and personal care homes suspended except for compassionate reasons
	+ Households must not allow anyone else in their home who does not live there unless they are caregivers, support personnel, or tradespersons who is there to provide services (i.e. plumber, electrician, or other person providing a maintenance or similar service).
	+ Individuals who are the parents or guardians of children under the age of 18 years who co-parent the children or who have custodial or access rights pursuant to a court order, a custody and access agreement or other form of agreement are permitted to continue with co-parenting and to continue to follow the terms of such orders or agreements.

**Indoor Public Event Gatherings:**

* + Indoor public banquets, conferences, wedding and funeral receptions in public venues will be limited to 30 people. Food or beverages may not be present or served.

**It is strongly recommended by Indigenous Services Canada Medical Health Officer that First Nations also adopt similar measures to stop the transmission of COVID-19 and its variants and avoid all non-essential travel, especially to the Regina area.** Medical appointments and compassionate care visits are still considered necessary. The Saskatchewan Health Authority has reminded residents that it is safe to attend medical appointments but does not recommend making other stops or visits in the city.

[**https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/news/releases/Pages/2021/March/Regina-and-area-residentsreminded-essential-travel-includes-medical-appointments-and-compassionate-visitation.aspx**](https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/news/releases/Pages/2021/March/Regina-and-area-residentsreminded-essential-travel-includes-medical-appointments-and-compassionate-visitation.aspx)

 **Vaccine Clinics:**

Onion Lake Health will be holding COVID19 Vaccine Clinics for its community members who have scheduled to receive their first dose during the month of April Tuesday - Thursdays.

**SIGN UP ONLINE FOR YOUR COVID19 VACCINE:**

* Use the link [www.olcncovidtracker.com](http://www.olcncovidtracker.com) to book online
* OR call 306-344-2330 or 639-343-7010 (only for those that do not have ability to book online)

DATES: Tuesday – Thursdays

LOCATION: OLCN Community Hall (or Ice Level if not available)

We have 775 people who have received vaccinations to date through our Onion Lake Health vaccination clinics. We encourage everyone to receive their vaccine that can that are 16 and older that are part of the Onion Lake Community and our Urban Membership.

**Isolation Requirements if tested positive with a variant of COVID19:**

Evidence around variants of concern suggests it is not possible to separate adequately in the home, even if there are separate rooms. Therefore, the household contacts are considered exposed. **This could result in 24-days of isolation or more.** Therefore, alternative isolation options when there is a case within a household will be sought whenever possible. If anyone travels to major cities like Saskatoon and Edmonton they must get a test as soon as they arrive back in the community and seven days thereafter.

Any person deemed a non-close contact through contact tracing is strongly encouraged to get tested and self-monitor. As long as the non-close contact has no symptoms, they do not need to self-isolate but any non-close contacts who develop symptoms need to immediately self-isolate at the earliest onset of symptoms and should seek testing.

**Drive Thru Testing Site & COVID-19 Assessment Blu Medical Tent for Onion Lake Health Centre:**

Onion Lake Health Centre has Drive Thru Testing and installed a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Assessment Blu Medical tent. We also have capacity built to accommodate an increase in positive cases. It is vital to abide by the 14 day self-isolation rules when mandated and it is the only sure way to stop the spread. Please call 811 if you have Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms to book an appointment for being tested or call the Onion Lake Health Help Line **306-500-7260.**

Anyone can contract COVID-19, we are not immune, and these measures are put in place to keep our community safe. We strongly encourage anyone who is concerned they may have been exposed or have symptoms to get tested. THE SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT AND THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER HAVE LEGALLY MANDATED SELF-ISOLATION. OLCN LEADERSHIP IS IN AGREEMENT AND THERE COULD BE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES IF THIS IS NOT FOLLOWED BY THE PERSON WHO IS TO SELF-ISOLATE. SECURITY AND RCMP ARE AUTHORISED TO ENSURE THIS ORDER IS FOLLOWED ON ONION LAKE.

THANK YOU. WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE AND HEALTHY.

# -30-

For more information, please contact: Onion Lake Communications

communications@onionlake.ca Cell: 306.344.1317