



# HO-CHUNK NATION

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Media

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **COVID-19 Update *Take Care of One Another by Staying Home***

The Ho-Chunk Nation is experiencing extreme increases in COVID-19 cases. Our neighboring communities are also experiencing these same increases which are creating significant stresses on the public health and health care systems. Many of our local hospitals are at capacity and are experiencing shortages of staffing. Even the Ho-Chunk Nation has had staffing shortages that have decreased services and temporarily closed departments. Health care facilities have begun to postpone surgeries, procedures and appointments and are at risk of the following:

- Running out of beds to care for people who need immediate hospital care
- Not having enough staff to care for patients, both COVID and non-COVID

The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health has begun to implement crisis contact tracing due to the high numbers of cases. Our County Public Health partners are also struggling to keep up with the rapidly increasing number of cases. This creates delays in patients being notified of their test results and close contact being notified of their exposure and provided information on quarantine.

It is imperative that our community, our families, each individual take action immediately. Stop having gatherings of any kind with those individuals outside of your house hold, stay home if you are feeling ill, only go out of your home for the essentials, when you leave your home wear a mask and stay 6 feet away from others outside of your home, wash your hands frequently, and get your flu shot. These efforts are to protect the most vulnerable in our community, those who we love, those who we respect, and those who we depend on for guidance. Take care of one another.

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