



# HO-CHUNK NATION

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



### **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2022

CONTACT: Kiana Beaudin, Ho-Chunk Nation Health Department Health Officer, 715-284-9851

**RE:** Updated COVID-19 Recommendations

The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health (HCN DOH) continues to respond and monitor COVID-19. In January the Ho-Chunk Nation, much like surrounding communities, saw a dramatic spike in the number of cases of COVID-19. Less than a month later we have seen a great decrease in the number of new positive cases and hospitalizations from COVID-19. This trend has been encouraging and requires the HCN DOH to evaluate the current strategies and recommendations around COVID-19. The HCN DOH will continue to use both Tribal, local, state, and federal data to make informed decisions and recommendations to our community members and leadership. Important websites where you can review the latest data include:

<https://health.ho-chunk.com/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/data.htm>

The Department will continue to offer COVID-19 vaccine, clinical testing, home testing, and treatment for COVID-19. These are all important tools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our communities and reduce the number of hospitalizations and deaths.

The Department will be reviewing other prevention strategies such as masking, contact tracing, disease investigation, mass gathering limits, and travel recommendations in the coming weeks. If cases of COVID-19 remain low, as well as, hospitalizations and deaths, the HCN DOH will provide updated guidance. In the coming weeks/months changes to these prevention strategies will be shared with our community members, employees, as well as, our leadership.

We are hopeful the decrease in cases continue. Because of the low number of new cases, increased capacity of our local hospitals to care for sick individuals, and the decreasing number of deaths the HCN DOH has provided updated recommendations for non-Health department sites. The HCN DOH will only be doing contact tracing for individuals positive for COVID-19 Monday through Friday and will not be contact tracing over the weekends starting March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

We continue to encourage everyone who is eligible to please get your COVID-19 vaccine including your booster. COVID-19 vaccine is available at both the Ho-Chunk Health Care Center and the House of Wellness Clinic, 5 days per week for appointments, please call 715-284-9851 or 608-355-1240. Please get tested if you are feeling any type of symptom of COVID-19 and stay home if you are feeling ill.

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