

## All Nations Health Partners – Ontario Health Team – Kenora Region



*For Immediate Release*

April 3, 2020

### COVID-19 Task Forces mobilizing in the Kenora District

The All Nations Health Partners include political and health leaders from the Kenora district, who have combined forces to form six COVID-19 related task forces. Expert staff from across the partnership are working together in the following areas:

1. Communications – Daily bulletins sharing partner and community services and announcements are posted on our website: **ANHP.net**, Facebook: All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team and Twitter: AllNationsHealthPartnersOHT @AllNationsOHT. **Help Lines** in English **807-444-2219** and Anishinaabemowin **807-464-3588** are available for all residents of Kenora and the surrounding communities. Call or text to ask about services near you, including Mental Health, what businesses are still open, and where you can get help to feed your family.
2. COVID-19 Assessment and Testing Centre opened Monday, March 30 at the former ambulance base near LWDH. Staff from several partner agencies are sharing the staffing duties. People with mild symptoms are to phone the NWHU **866-468-2240** for screening first, and appointments for assessment will be made as required. Primary care providers are developing streamlined paths of care to identify, treat and follow-up with potential COVID-19 patients who are without family doctors.
3. Vulnerable Populations – partners are working together to protect the safety and health of area seniors, Indigenous, underhoused and homeless populations. This includes providing trained staff to assist vulnerable groups of people who are seeking services, self-isolating, or who may need to become quarantined. PPE is being sourced and shared amongst the partner groups. The Kenora District Services Board and Lake of the Woods District Hospital have entered into a partnership with the City of Kenora for the use of the Keewatin Arena. The facility will be supported and operated in partnership with multiple community organizations.
4. Food Security – partners and community groups are combining resources to ensure all area families and individuals have a reliable, steady supply of food during the crisis. This includes First Nations communities, and remote communities during ice-out. New and existing meal and hamper programs, food supply chains and delivery methods are being employed and adjusted as needed, to maximize our reach.
5. Home and Community Care, Human Resources/Volunteers – partners are working closely together so that our people have the help they need to live safely in their homes. Efforts are being pursued to schedule and share staff across all agencies. Exploration is underway to explore the training of volunteers and family members to assist with safely caring for their own family members.
6. Traditional Healing during COVID-19– Indigenous partners are working with area elders to continue to use medicines and ceremonies in a good way, with the appropriate precautions shared from western medicine.

The All Nations Health Partners thank their respective boards and staff for sharing their knowledge and resources during these unprecedented times, showing the strength of teamwork in preparing for this pandemic.

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