

March 17, 2020



## Community Notice and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

The Oneida Business Committee (OBC) is aware of the many concerns and questions tribal members may have regarding the impacts COVID-19 may have on the Nation's programs and services. The Nation has been monitoring this emerging, rapidly evolving situation and is working with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Wisconsin Department of Health, Indian Health Service, the Nation's Public Health experts, and others to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the Community and our employees. The Nation is continuously assessing all possible options to protect the people, land, and resources of the Nation and continues to take all necessary precautions should this situation change. Please go to the Nation's website at [Oneida-nsn.gov](http://Oneida-nsn.gov) and other social media venues such as Facebook and Twitter to get up to date information the Nation's efforts to contain the COVID-19 outbreak.

### Next Steps

As a result of the precautionary measures taken to date, we are confident the overall risk to our families, community and customers remains low, however, we re-emphasize the situation remains fluid and changes hour by hour. We encourage our Nation's families and community members to review their own emergency preparedness plans and ask questions if you have them.

To assist in providing a concise method of communicating information, the Nation is implementing the following steps:

1. A centralized phone number and email is being activated where all questions about the Nation's precautionary measures, that are not health related. These are [Covid-19@oneidanation.org](mailto:Covid-19@oneidanation.org) and 920-869-4481;
2. Employee concerns regarding disinfection practices at the Nation's enterprises is being reviewed and considered, additional information will be provided to employees and customers regularly; and
3. A frequently asked questions (FAQ) has been provided to share the most current information available and will be updated and posted to the Nation's website periodically.

## FAQ – Oneida Nation Response to Covid-19

Question	Response
<p>How do we define “State of Emergency” and what does this really mean?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a high alert for information and action to keep our community safe. This also allows for the Oneida Nation to access emergency funding.</li> <li>• Please review the Nation’s Emergency Management &amp; Homeland Security Law found on the website at: <a href="https://oneida-nsn.gov/dl-file.php?file=2016/02/Chapter-302.-Emergency-Management-02-25-15-C.pdf">https://oneida-nsn.gov/dl-file.php?file=2016/02/Chapter-302.-Emergency-Management-02-25-15-C.pdf</a></li> <li>• The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated and is currently being conducted virtually.</li> </ul>
<p>How long will the Public Health Emergency last?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Public Health Emergency Resolution is for 30 days. This may be extended depending on the circumstances which are changing daily.</li> <li>• The Nation receives daily briefings from our state and federal partners regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and we are working with our experts to conduct situational analysis daily through the emergency period</li> </ul>
<p>I am returning to the community from travel and I am unsure if I should self-quarantine. Who do I call and what are the guidelines?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are unsure if your international or domestic travel created a COVID-19 exposure risk, you should contact your physician for proper screening and information.</li> <li>• The CDC and State of Wisconsin also provide guidance which can be found here: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html</a></li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p>Has the COVID-19 virus spread to our area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nation officials participate in daily briefings which include updates on the spread of the virus in WI. Daily updates can be found here on the States website at <a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm</a></li> </ul>
<p>Why has the Nation canceled some events and not others?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nation collaborates daily with Public Health experts and operations’ leaders about what functions should be postponed or canceled.</li> <li>• Events and meetings that are typically attended by our high risk members or cannot accommodate the recommended social distancing standards has been postponed or canceled.</li> <li>• The Nation’s website is being updated to provide immediate visualization of all COVID-19 information. Please continue to watch for updates on the website and social media sites. Where appropriate or needed, direct mail will be used.</li> </ul>

<p>Does the Oneida Nation as a sovereign, have to follow the state mandates?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a responsible sovereign government, we regulate our own operations and abide by our own laws, which includes the Nation’s Emergency Management &amp; Homeland Security Law.</li> <li>• The Nation is committed to working collaboratively with local, State and Federal Government officials to ensure the best possible access to resources for families and the community throughout the duration of this fluid and emergent situation.</li> </ul>
<p>I have a family member who must stay home to take care of a family member or child due to sickness or school closure because of COVID-19 can they be compensated for their time away from work?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nation understands the importance of our employees and have implemented an emergency policy to cover the wages of employees who must miss work due to an exposure or restriction, or due to school closure. Employees should contact their supervisors for specific procedures and adhere to the Nation’s internal standard operating procedures.</li> <li>• We urge families who must seek alternative childcare to follow the CDC’s guidelines about “At-Risk” individuals.</li> <li>• The Nation is reviewing a tribal contribution fund to assist in off-setting childcare expenses during the affected time period. If approved, more details will be provided.</li> </ul>
<p>Is it safe for my parents or older adult to care for my child while schools are closed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigating exposure risk to older adults and persons with underlying health conditions is important. Please review the CDC recommendations found at <a href="http://www.coronavirus.gov">www.coronavirus.gov</a></li> </ul>
<p>What is the best number or email for me to call if I have more questions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please contact your health care provider</li> <li>• For all other questions, please email: <a href="mailto:covid-19@oneidanation.org">covid-19@oneidanation.org</a>, or call 920-869-4481.</li> </ul>
<p>Now that schools are closed, what about Oneida daycare?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At this time, Oneida Childcare will remain open. To the best of our knowledge other local childcare centers will also remain open. However, we emphasize the situation remains fluid and this may change.</li> <li>• The Nation is working closely with Public Health Officials and our own experts to review these decisions daily.</li> <li>• Parents of Oneida Childcare will be contacted if a closing of Oneida’s facility is necessary.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We encourage you to keep your children home if they are ill.</li> </ul>
What are we doing about allowing employees in vulnerable areas to work from home?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency policies have been put in place to allow telecommuting where available. Employees have received this notice and should work with their Supervisors to process requests.</li> </ul>
What if schools go online and some families don't have online connections at home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ONSS is prepared to address this and have been in contact with students and parents.</li> </ul>
How long will the Oneida Casino be closed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of March 21 at 11:59 the gaming facilities will be closed to the public for 14 days. Evaluation and assessment of health conditions will determine re-opening.</li> </ul>
Will the Oneida Nation shut down retail stores?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oneida Retail Enterprise has contingency plans which outline steps to be taken should it be deemed necessary to take such an action.</li> <li>• The Nation continues to emphasize the overall risk to the community remains low and all actions taken to date remain precautionary.</li> </ul>
What can healthy community members do to help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need healthy people to stay healthy, continue practicing good sanitary practices and activities.</li> <li>• Offer to assist those who may need shopping, picking up meds, and relief from childcare.</li> <li>• Practice the CDC recommended guidelines relating to the exposing individual in the vulnerable population.</li> </ul>
Are COVID-19 tests available for those who believe they may have been exposed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If an individual believes they have been exposed to Covid-19, they should contact their healthcare provider immediately to obtain instructions. The Oneida Health Center can do testing. If you have questions call the Oneida Health Center for directions on how to follow up if you feel ill. (920) 869-2711.</li> </ul>

<p>I have transportation needs such as going to medical appointments - is Oneida Transit still operating?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oneida Transit is still operating but only for medical transport and employee to work, If changes to their schedule is needed, communication to the community will be provided.</li> <li>• The Nation continues to make decisions which have the least amount of impact on services to the community, and the Nation encourages all tribal members to review their own emergency preparedness plans.</li> </ul>
<p>We have many different kinds of operations in the Nation – are there contingency plans in place for all areas?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Oneida Nation’s Emergency Management &amp; Homeland Security Law identifies responsible parties for the Nation’s overall response plan which has been in place for several years. The Nation exercises with these plans on a regular basis.</li> <li>• Each Oneida division has more specific contingency plans in the Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery cycle.</li> </ul>
<p>What liabilities might we incur if we do not take certain measures mandated by the state or federal government(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nation is committed to working cooperatively with Public Health experts at all levels of government.</li> <li>• Decisions being made consider all possible risks to the Nation, including varying forms of liability.</li> </ul>
<p>What actions are taken if a case is detected in Tribal Operations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedures are in place through the Public Health Office. The established guidelines are followed, such as identifying locations, thoroughly disinfecting exposed spaces, notifying employees, proper officials &amp; preparing public statements.</li> <li>• Standard procedures also include identifying who has been infected and who has been exposed, and reporting this information to the county the individual lives in.</li> </ul>