



Suggested Media

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COMMUNIQUÉ

Important Notice regarding new restricted access signage

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 8, Onerahtókha/April 2020) The Kahnawà:ke COVID-19 Task Force wishes to advise the community that new signage regarding RESTRICTED ACCESS has been erected on the highways located on the Territory.

There are two different signs:

1. “Access to Mercier Bridge only”
2. “Residents only”

“It is important to note that these signs have been erected to help address the continuing problem of non-locals attempting to purchase goods on the Territory, particularly tobacco products, despite two public notices making it clear that Kahnawà:ke is closed for business during the COVID-19 pandemic,” stated Commissioner of Public Safety Lloyd Phillips. “The signs have NOT been erected to stop local deliveries or essential workers from accessing the Territory. However, it is clear that stronger measures are needed, as a significant number of people with no business being here continue to enter our community, with no regard for our health and safety.

“Simply put, we are doing everything in our power to limit contact from the outside,” he continued. “That is our only intent. The electronic billboards have had some effect but some people think the directives are meant for others – not them. That is not the case. Anyone in contravention will be liable for serious fines.”

Businesses and organizations deemed essential who have non-locals working within the Territory are asked to inform their staff that they should not be concerned about these signs, as they are exempt.

Gas and grocery stores along the main highways (132, 138 and 207) are deemed essential services. The Task Force is asking these businesses to limit access to non-locals. All travel to the village area, residential or highly populated local areas is limited to essential service employees and local essential deliveries. Food delivery is deemed essential.

“Thanks for your attention and patience during this difficult time,” Phillips concluded. “We must work together collectively to ensure the protection against this virus, which knows no boundaries regardless of race, nationality, or religious beliefs.”

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The Kahnawà:ke COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force consists of designated health and safety representatives from Kahnawà:ke's service organizations