



Suggested Media

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COMMUNIQUÉ

Task Force raises Pandemic Status to **RED**, phasing in more restrictive measures

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 1, Kentenha/October 2020) The Kahnawà:ke COVID-19 Task Force wishes to inform the community that, effective today, the Pandemic Status has been raised to **Red/Onkwéhntara**.

This means there is a significant increase or sustained level of community spread and maximum risk of transmission. Enhanced measures must continue to be followed and further encouraged. More restrictive measures will be implemented, while attempting to avoid the confinement that was experienced during the first wave.

Please note that measures/directives will be implemented using a phased-in approach.

Effective immediately, the following directives have been implemented as part of the first phase:

- Private gatherings are limited to six (6) people
- Public Gatherings are prohibited, with very specific exceptions, such as Funerals, Religious/Traditional Ceremonies and Support Groups)
- People are strongly recommended to stay within their households
- Residents advised to stay local as much as possible. No unnecessary travel
- No visitation at KMHC, Elders Lodge, and Independent Living Center except for natural care givers and end of life visits
- Closure of organized sports

Effective at 12:01am on Sunday, October 4th, certain businesses will be asked to close or modify services (will be notified to allow time to prepare). Gaming establishments will be closed, and restaurants will be asked to revert to take-out and delivery only. No in-house dining allowed. Cigar Lounges will revert to retail sales only.

Schools will move to remote learning but will remain open for vulnerable students and those without access to appropriate WIFI technology, as well as for children of essential service workers. Daycares will continue to operate as usual at this time.

“It is clear that the current situation in Quebec is escalating and that we absolutely must take aggressive measures,” said Lloyd Phillips, the Head of the Task Force. “We have to make very difficult decisions that will, once again, cause a great deal of stress for our people but we must remind Kahnawà:kehrónon of our mandate to protect our most vulnerable population and the community as a whole.”

The situation in and around Kahnawake is being assessed on a continuous basis. If required, additional measures as outlined in the RED alert level may be implemented.

The Task Force wishes to remind Kahnawà:kehrónon of their personal responsibility to follow the measures and guidelines to protect themselves, their family, and fellow community members.

Distance, Frequent Hand Washing and Masks.