

Covid 19 Update from MITW Incident Command

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NATIONAL GUARD TESTING RESULTS:

Great news! Out of 1061 tests, only one positive Covid 19 result and the county of residence was not local. We are still awaiting a final summary from the National Guard but we estimate three fourths of the tests were from Menominee County residents.

These excellent results are tribute to the Menominee community. They reflect how seriously you have worked to keep Covid 19 out of your homes and reservation. They reflect your understanding of the virus. They reflect your care for elders, your loved ones, and your Tribe. They reflect your willingness to disrupt your lives to invest in a healthy future. You are to be commended; these past 11 weeks have been very hard.

What next?

- These results are to be celebrated but they do not predict tomorrow or mean the virus is not lurking, waiting, and sneaking around. We cannot let up on efforts! Covid will come if we let down our guards.

- **Safety recommendations are the same: maintain social distancing, wear a mask or cloth face cover in public, do not have family gatherings, keep practicing hygiene and frequent cleaning in your home. Wash your hands, often!**
- **Incident Command will be working toward “re-opening” offices, services, and buildings. However, this cannot be a return to our previous way of conducting lives and work. Safety measures will be in place, return will be slow, masks will become routine. Moving from near-lock down toward a new normal will be like slowly turning a dial, not flipping a switch. This will all require patience, and focus on remembering the goal: to stay healthy and keep the Covid 19 out of the community.**
- **Avoid temptations! You won’t have to travel far (just south of here, for example) to find people and businesses who have abandoned all efforts to maintain safety and personal responsibility and have decided to make Covid 19 a political issue instead of a public health threat. Please continue to make good decisions and stay out of packed restaurants, bars, and stores. Think about what could happen if you catch the virus and bring it to your work place (like a nursing home or CBRF) or your elders at home who can’t fight the disease.**
- **Keep up the good work; spread the safety behaviors, not the virus!**