Menominee Tribal Clinic Corona Virus (Covid 19) Response: Update

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The clinic wants to keep you updated about our response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. We have four major goals as we respond to the spread of virus and threats to the Menominee Nation:

1. **To Stop the Spread of the Virus:**
   - MOST IMPORTANT: If you are NOT sick, don’t come to the clinic. If you are sick, call ahead to decide if you should come.
   - You will be asked at the main entrance if you have a cough and why you are at the clinic.
   - We will not see patients for regular check-ups, routine physical exams, dental cleanings, or routine eye exams. If it is an appointment you would make when you feel fine, it will be postponed. This is to keep YOU safe. Adult vaccinations and vaccinations for anyone greater than 6 months old will be postponed, except for flu vaccines which are still given.
   - There will be separate Registration areas for dental appointments. Staff will register you if you need medication refills. You will be directed to the correct door for these.
   - Refills will be delivered to you outside.
   - The clinic has hired emergency staff to do more cleaning and disinfecting. Some clinic staff are assigned to help clean.
   - Patients who are coughing will put on a mask when they enter and will see a triage nurse to decide if they should be examined in an isolation room. If so, they are routed there through an outside door.
   - All patients entering the building will use hand sanitizer upon entry.
   - If you need to get paperwork to Contract Health MAIL the paperwork, do not come to clinic if you are well. Address the envelope to Contract Health, Menominee Tribal Clinic, PO BOX 970 Keshena, WI, 54135.
   - If you need to see WIC, call first. Certification may be done through a phone call.
   - Every day the spread of the virus changes and we are making changes quickly. These changes may not seem to make sense. These changes may cause frustration. Please know that all the changes are to keep our patients and staff safe.

2. **To provide for other medical needs:**
• Patients with other acute medical problems such as injuries, heart problems, or breathing problems will continue to be evaluated. Call your provider’s nurse or the appointment desk at 715-799-5400. It is better for acute problems to be evaluated at the clinic instead of going to an Emergency Room.

There is now a shortage on many medications. Now you will only be dispensed 30 days of medication.

3. To Evaluate patients with concerning symptoms:

• If you have concerns, call the nurse of your doctor or provider to evaluate your risks. Do not come to the clinic without calling. If calls become overwhelming, we will create special phone numbers.

• Patients with concerning symptoms leave Registration and enter isolated rooms through an outside separate entrance. Parking space will be available.

• We have the ability to perform a limited number of Covid-19 tests but the labs in the state are only running tests on hospitalized patients and health care providers. At this point, you will not be tested until the state labs have the materials to run the test.

• If you are evaluated, you will be sent to a hospital if you are severely ill. If you are not severely ill, you will be sent home and you will be on ISOLATION which means you cannot leave home until you are recovered. You should stay isolated for 14 days.

• The clinic has limited supplies of personal protective equipment which means we cannot share this equipment with patients. Our staff need the equipment to protect everyone.

4. To provide information: The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Public health are trustworthy sources of information:

www.cdc.gov

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov

Updates about the virus and symptoms will be distributed on tribal social media, web sites, and newspaper.

Future Concerns:

• If the virus becomes very widespread in our community, it will not be possible to evaluate everyone. In that case, it will be very important for you to STAY HOME if you are not short of breath or feel extremely weak. We may start evaluating people while in their cars.

• The spread of virus and what to do about it changes daily. What the clinic is doing today may change quickly. Please know that everything we are doing is to keep our patients safe.