



MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

MENOMINEE TRIBAL CLINIC

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Menominee Tribal Clinic Covid 19 Update

Public Service Announcement

8/23/2021

VISITORS IN CLINIC/SCREENING FOR COVID

The Menominee Nation is experiencing a large surge in Covid 19 cases due to the Delta variant. Menominee Tribal Clinic must continue all infection control measures to keep patients and staff safe while in the clinic. Limiting the number of people who enter the clinic daily has been the foundation of our safety measures since the pandemic began in March 2020 and must continue. We understand this is aggravating and at times difficult for patients and their families but it is necessary to prevent Covid 19 transmission in the clinic.

Before your next clinic visit, please review our guidelines for visitors in the clinic (who can accompany patients in the clinic):

OB patient: one support person (for office visit or ultrasound)

Newborns to children age 18: one parent, guardian, or adult with permission

Elders requiring physical assistance or care-giving: one adult

Persons with disability of any age requiring assistance: one adult

Adults with appointments involving serious decision-making: one adult

Persons with assigned guardianship: guardian or designated adult

The CDC and the State of WI Department of Health Services have strict guidelines on screening patients for Covid symptoms upon entry of health care facilities. Menominee Tribal Clinic is subject to these guidelines and risks losing state and federal funding for failure to comply. This is part of infection control and keeps Covid out of the clinic. It is tedious and tiresome but Covid screening will continue at

the main entrance and in Patient Registration for the duration of the pandemic. Here is a quick summary of Covid Screening at MTC:

- Patients who have NEW cough, shortness of breath, fever, diarrhea, common cold symptoms, or headache have Covid symptoms, should not enter the clinic, and should have a Covid test before attending any scheduled appointments. Patients will be directed to leave the clinic and call 715-799-5400 to schedule a Covid test and re-schedule their appointment in the clinic.
- Patients who reach a scheduled appointment and are found to have Covid symptoms will be asked to leave immediately and schedule a Covid test. Patients in the clinic with Covid risk spreading it through the ventilation system to the rest of the clinic. We have 3 isolated rooms where Covid patients can be evaluated. Covid patients seen anywhere else in the clinic risk spreading the virus through people and the ventilation system. Any room in the clinic where a Covid patient has been seen must be shut down for over one hour before it can be cleaned. Patients who fail to be truthful about Covid symptoms and reach an appointment in the clinic, in any department, put the entire clinic at risk. We cannot take those risks.

MTC staff are as sick and tired of all of these measures as our patients. Please respect our staff and treat them with respect and patience as we work hard to keep the clinic safe.

The most important thing you can do to get rid of these restrictive guidelines and screenings at MTC is to get vaccinated if you have not! Covid 19 will not end until vaccinations are widespread.

Thank you from the staff of Menominee Tribal Clinic.