

# Memo

**To:** First Nation Communities, UNFC, Sunset Country Metis, and Other Partner Organizations

**From:** Shanna Weir – Executive Director

**Cc:** GHAC Board of Directors

**Date:** April 15, 2020

## Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre Update

We wanted to keep you advised of changes and additional relevant information about GHAC and our operations during this pandemic time.

GHAC continues to be committed to providing primary care, mental health, nutrition, smoking cessation and other support to our partners and clients via telephone and other virtual means. Active screening is occurring both on the phone and upon entry to the centre for all clients, visitors and staff. Temperature checks are part of the screening process for physical entry to the building. Access to the facility is currently limited to only necessary visits. We request that everyone phone GHAC for screening and scheduling of a visit.

Many staff are working both remotely from home and within the facility. We have implemented a rotation schedule for staff working within the facility to encourage and support social distancing and keep everyone healthy. All staff coming into the centre are also being screened with the screening tool and a physical temperature check. All non-essential travel has been suspended. We continue to monitor and provide updates to our staff and board 3 times per week, regarding the National, Provincial and regional status of cases and testing, as well as changes to any provincial directives or guidance, related to COVID-19.

Virtual visits (via OTN) or telephone are/can be conducted by all service providers, including Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Dietitians, Mental Health Workers, PCAP Coordinator, Diabetes Educators, Footcare or Health Educators. A Needs Assessment survey was sent to the Health Director's/CHR's to determine capacity within the community to support use of computer, internet,

phone and/or private space for client virtual care, should this be a barrier for a community member to access services. Please return the survey information whenever possible, so we can continue to support and plan for client care in these new ways during this uncertain time. If you have any questions, please call Melanie Buckshot, Executive Assistant or myself.

GHAC continues to be involved in regular teleconferences and web-based meetings with the Ministry of Health (daily), regional and local partners. We have reached out to both New Gold and Norbord as large employers in the area to offer support and information related to screening, distancing and infection control, as per the Ministry and local recommendations.

Information and support is available on Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre's website ([www.gzhac.com](http://www.gzhac.com)), GHAC Facebook page, and by calling our centre (274-3131). Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns or if we can support you or your community/clients in any way. We are all in this together! Stay well!

Other websites or contact numbers for information and resources:

[www.fftahs.org](http://www.fftahs.org) (Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services)

[www.gct3.ca](http://www.gct3.ca) (Grand Council Treaty #3)

[www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca) (Ministry of Health)

[www.canada.ca/en/public-health](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health) (Public Health Agency of Canada)