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COMMUNIQUÉ

Update on 6th Wave of COVID-19

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 26, Onerahtókha/April 2022) The Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre's Public Health Department and the Public Safety Commission would like to provide an update on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Currently, the community is in the middle of the 6th Wave. Although there have been many identified cases, generally, community members have recovered with very few lasting impacts. However, some experience more severe symptoms both during their infectious period or afterward – with symptoms sometimes lingering for weeks or even months following a COVID-19 infection.

The Public Health Team is aware of several hospitalizations of community members of all ages, ranging from 2 months to those in their 90s. In these instances, symptoms are more severe.

Despite there being an increased risk to those who are elderly, immunocompromised, or with uncontrolled chronic health conditions, sometimes it is impossible to predict who might have mild symptoms versus who will be sicker and for how long. Although symptoms are similar to cold symptoms for most, for those who have more severe and long-term symptoms, the impacts can be devastating to quality of life. For this reason, we urge community members to maintain measures of masking, distance, hygiene, and proper ventilation as much as possible, especially now when COVID-19 cases are high during this 6th Wave. We expect the number of cases to decrease and, therefore, the level of risk to gradually decrease over the coming weeks.

More information on current health measures and other COVID-19 documents can be **found here**.

Public Health recommends that individuals use their judgment, knowledge, education, and acceptable level of risk when deciding about distancing in their personal indoor and outdoor home environment. When gathering, please consider those around you who may be immunocompromised and/or not protected (unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or have not contracted COVID-19 in the last three months).