Suggested Media Instructions:

Please run at your discretion.

Media Inquiries: Lloyd Phillips

Commissioner of Public Safety, Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke <u>lloyd.phillips@mck.ca</u>

Lisa Westaway

Executive Director,
Kateri Memorial Hospital
Centre
lisa.westaway.kahnawake
@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

COMMUNIQUÉ

Important news regarding Private Home Visits between two Households

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 12, Kentenhkó:wa/November 2020) The Kahnawà:ke COVID-19 Task Force wishes to advise the community that, effective Friday, November 13, 2020, Private Home Visits <u>are permitted</u> <u>between a maximum of two (2) households at a time</u>. It is strongly recommended that these visits be **limited to once per week**. This measure has been adjusted to address the mental health concerns raised by the community.

Please note the following: Private Home Visits do **NOT** include the following:

- Parties
- Gatherings of multiple households or multiple family members from different households

Private Home Visits should **NOT** take place if:

- You are at risk (over 70, immune-suppressed, etc.), you live with someone who is at risk, or you take care of someone who is at risk
- If you have COVID-19, if you have COVID-19 related symptoms, have been around a positive case, are awaiting test results

"It is suggested that family members and friends continue to reach out by telephone and other forms of communication to those vulnerable community members," said Derek Montour, KSCS Executive Director.

"The community needs to be aware that we are at our highest level of alert in this second wave and the risk of transmission of the virus is still significant," said Lloyd Phillips, Commissioner of Public safety and Head of the Task Force. "We must be aware that home visits – and increasing the number of contacts in the home – increases the risk of transmitting the virus. It is extremely important that we respect the *limitations* of this directive. We continue to see record numbers of cases in the areas around us while, in Kahnawà:ke, we presently have three cases."

Please note that it is a personal responsibility to ensure that these visits are done safely; if someone does not wish to have anyone else in their home, it is a personal choice.

"This measure is being put in place to help reduce stress and anxiety levels in Kahnawà:ke," he added. "We must all do our part to help protect our most vulnerable population – which is what we've been doing all along. Working together as a community we can limit and manage the spread of the virus."

Details on this Directive are available by clicking here.

Remember: Distance, Frequent Hand Washing, and Masks!