

BOIS FORTE COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATE: May 22, 2020

The Bois Forte Tribal Council would like to update you on what is going on here, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 monies are coming in from our share of the 8-billion-dollar stimulus package, which is part of the CARES Act. In addition, there are various aid coming in from the BIA and other foundations and agencies. We have approximately 27 pots of funding related to COVID-19 and those funds are to be used and will be used towards the pandemic in some way or another. We are preparing information to receive our share of the remaining percentage of the 8-billion, however the Treasury used U.S. Census data from Housing Urban Development (HUD) that did not have the Tribes properly represented; this means we do not expect to receive much from this percentage.

The Tribal Government has been preparing a plan on how to safely re-open our facilities and businesses. We have met numerous times with the management at Fortune Bay Resort Casino and are confident that we are able to safely open, the safety of our employees and guests is a priority we take seriously.

Fortune Bay Resort Casino will open on a limited basis beginning June 1, 2020. The Casino will be open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. The Sunset Steakhouse and the Tamarack Buffet will remain closed for the foreseeable future. The Gold Mine Grill and the North Star Bar will be open but on limited hours as well as the Gift Shop, Swimming Pool, Sauna, Hot Tub, and Fitness Center. The Marina, RV Park, and the Wilderness are open.

As we get used to this new normal way of life, we are moving forward with business. Part of the safety plan to re-open have been set in place; Plexiglas has been placed at all receptionist areas, pharmacies, and temperatures of employees are being taken at the beginning of their work shifts, masks are being worn and social distancing is monitored and enforced. This new normal is ever changing and we will adjust our safety plan to accommodate the fluidity of the situation.

Health and Human Services has received an analyzer with a second one on the way. We can provide rapid testing for the COVID-19, allowing results within an hour. We have large tents set up curbside at our medical clinics, where these tests will be done by our medical staff. If you are feeling symptoms of the Coronavirus or feel you have been in direct contact with a person who has tested positive, call the clinics. They will assess the situation and guide you through the process accordingly.

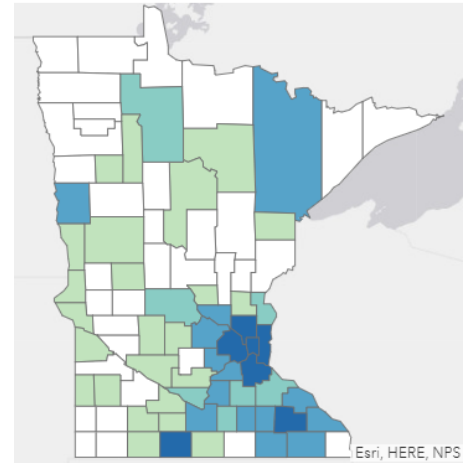
Enrollment is working on a plan of action for Band members to access and receive their Tribal IDs during this difficult time, especially as the DMVs are closed. Tribal members are having trouble accessing identification be it by loss of property or need for a renewal. If you have any questions or need a Tribal ID, contact Alanna Drift at alanna.drift@boisforte-nsn.gov or call her directly at [218-248-0581](tel:218-248-0581).

We want to acknowledge and thank Grand Portage for their donation of whitefish and trout. We'd also like to acknowledge and thank Mille Lacs for their donation of hams. These items were provided to our Elders.

According to the information available from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) the numbers of positive COVID-19 cases have and are growing.

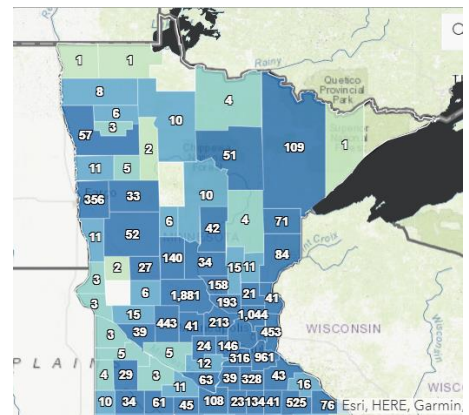
MDH Data April 1, 2020

<u>Location</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
MN	968	11
St. Louis County	12	0
Itasca County	1	0
Koochiching County	0	0



MDH Data May 22, 2020

<u>Location</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
MN	19,001	842
St. Louis County	109	13
Itasca County	51	6
Koochiching County	4	0



There will be a video uploaded with Band updates every Thursday evening on our YouTube Channel.

Please remember to wear your mask and practice social distancing, especially this holiday weekend. Be safe, stay home, stay healthy.

Links: www.boisforte.com | www.fortunebay.com | www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus

Contact: Nett Lake Health Clinic 218-757-3650 | Vermilion Health Clinic 218-753-2182

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