



# The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive • Peshawbestown, MI 49682 • (231) 534-7750

## COVID VACCINE REGISTRATION, A CALL TO ACTION

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- **The GTB Health Department is anticipating receiving its first distribution of COVID-19 vaccine doses around mid-December 2020.** We anticipate receiving the Pfizer ultra-cold vaccine first and then the Moderna vaccine shortly thereafter. The first distribution of doses will include a limited quantity to support vaccination of high priority groups such as health care workers, first responders, other essential workers, and individuals at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness. Larger amounts of vaccine doses to support additional vaccinations will be expected to be received in the early portion of 2021.
- **If you are interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available, please call the GTB COVID-19 Vaccine Line at (231) 534-7475.** Please leave your name, phone number, best time to be contacted, and be ready to receive a call from our staff within 2 to 3 business days. The phone number is not live-answered but only used to capture contact information for those interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The GTB Health Department staff will call back to collect the following additional information:
  - Whether you are registered with the clinic
  - Date of Birth
  - Occupation
  - Place of work
  - High risk conditions
- **Some additional points:**
  - You must be a registered patient of the clinic to be eligible to receive the vaccine. We urge you to complete your registration paperwork on a prior basis. Our staff can assist with this process. Please call them at 231-534-7256 if needed.
  - It is anticipated that the initial FDA approved COVID-19 vaccines will be a 2-dose series, separated by 21 to 28 days. Each individual shall be scheduled to receive 2 doses and of the same vaccine brand as brands are not interchangeable.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations across the country. CDC research indicates AI/AN are 3.5 times more likely to be infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. As such, the COVID-19 vaccine represents a promising countermeasure to further reduce disease, morbidity, and mortality.



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**We will communicate additional information about the vaccines as it becomes available.** The CDC has created a page “Vaccines” (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>) that provides preliminary information on COVID-19 vaccines. This link will also be posted on the GTB public information page.

If you haven't already, please ensure you and your family are vaccinated for influenza as soon as possible as co-administration of the COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines is unlikely to be recommended.

Stopping the COVID-19 pandemic will require all of the tools available. The COVID-19 vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like masks, social distancing, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and following CDC recommendations to protect your self and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

Respectfully,

Soumit Pendharkar, MHA, FACHE  
Health Administrator