



LITTLE RED RIVER CREE NATION

December 14th, 2020

Re: Testing For COVID-19 in Garden River

To Nation Residents and Members,

We understand the people of Garden River are afraid and want to be tested for COVID-19 for peace of mind. But **COVID-19 testing in Garden River has to be prioritized**

- People who will be tested:
 - Named contacts of the positive cases, only true contacts (please see previous notice)
 - People with cold or flu like symptoms
- We are not testing anyone outside of these criteria as we need to preserve resources
- We do not test contacts of contacts, or contacts of contacts of contacts, etc.

Why are we doing this?

- We are following Alberta Health Guidelines which is based on science about this virus
- If we test people too soon (even if they have COVID-19), their results will be negative because the virus has not built up in a person's body enough to be detected on the test. Then people think they are negative, let their guard down and start to spread the virus.
- People with COVID-19 are only infectious after a certain period of time after exposure. People who were in contact with positive cases early in their infection period are at very low risk of contracting the virus.
- We have limited resources
 - Staff
 - Time
 - Rapid Test Cartridges
- Please do not phone the Health Center and demand a test when you don't have symptoms or are not a contact.

Mass testing of Garden River residents will be considered if an outbreak is declared by the Medical Officer of Health. Please try to stay calm while we continue to handle this situation and support each other as best as you can.

Thank you,

LRRCN Emergency Management Team

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