



*Gaa'ozishkwaajimekaag Gabe-gikendaasoowizamiig*

**March 17, 2020**

### Coronavirus Update

This letter is to update the actions that Leech Lake Tribal College is taking in response to the ongoing and developing situation with regards to the Coronavirus pandemic.

First, to address the rumors, speaking with Sanford Health as well as the Minnesota Department of Health, there are no, I repeat NO, cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Bemidji area. Out of an abundance of caution, Sanford Health has increased its testing regimen, but, there have been no positive tests for coronavirus.

The State of Minnesota has confirmed, however, that several of the latest positive cases in the state were the result of community transmission. This means that the possibility of exposure to the virus has increased.

For that reason, the Leech Lake Tribal College has enacted the following policies in order to safeguard the students, the community and the College itself.

For the foreseeable future, the following groups are asked to remain off the campus:

- Those over the age of 60
- Those who have respiratory issues
- Those who have chronic medical conditions that have shown susceptibility to the coronavirus
  - Heart disease
  - Lung disease
  - Diabetes

We are also asking that if you have extended contact with anyone from the above groups to also please refrain from coming on campus.

As before, classes will resume on Monday, March 30 but will be delivered in an ONLINE Format. If you have questions, please contact your instructor and they will provide further information and guidance as to how to plan.

Students should be reassured that services that they've received throughout the semester will continue just in a modified form that asks that students contact the person they would normally work with via email or phone rather than face to face. Should any issues arise that requires immediate attention of Student Services, we ask that you call or email immediately and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Also, checks will be mailed to the address on file and will NOT be available for pickup. Payroll will be processed as normal and deposited with direct deposit if available, otherwise your check will be mailed to you.

It is important to note, and I want to reassure everyone, that the college is undertaking these measures not because the coronavirus is present in the area, but to limit its impact on the community, especially the most vulnerable, should the coronavirus appear anywhere near our community.

We are doing everything in our power to ensure that Leech Lake Tribal College continues to offer the highest quality education grounded in Anishinaabe values. While we do recognize that there may be bumps in the road, it is important that we do all that we can to make sure that our community remain as safe as possible during the coronavirus pandemic, hence what seems like drastic measures.

We often speak of LLTC as a family, not just a college and now is the time when we, as a family, pull together and get through this.

Take care and stay safe.

Raymond Burns,  
President



*Gaa'ozishkwaajimekaag Gabe-gikendaasoowizamis*

**March 12, 2020**

Boozhoo,

I wanted to make sure that everyone who is part of the Leech Lake Tribal College community is up to date with the rapidly developing situation with the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The safety of everyone who learns, works and visits our campus is our number one priority and we want to assure you that we are taking steps to ensure that safety and bring you up to speed with those steps.

It is important to remember that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 anywhere near Leech Lake, Bemidji or the surrounding areas. While the Minnesota Department of Health has confirmed that there are five (5) cases in Minnesota, it appears that these cases are NOT the result of community transmission. This lessens the chance that the virus could be spreading undetected.

The Administration Team of LLTC has been meeting constantly for the past several weeks to discuss latest developments and create plans for constantly changing scenarios that would both continue to provide our students with a quality education while also safeguarding their health and the health of their families.

The President is also in constant touch with local, regional and national health organizations to obtain and disseminate the latest and most accurate information to the LLTC Community.

LLTC has implemented limited travel restrictions but cautions everyone that these could change rapidly with changes in the overall COVID-19 situation.

While there is no plan to close the campus at this time, out of an overabundance of caution, LLTC is working on plans should the necessity arise.

LLTC asks that everyone who works, learns or visits our campus to follow the following simple guidelines:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. This has been proven to be the most effective way of stopping the transmittal of COVID-19 as well as other flus and common colds
- Refrain from touching your face with your hands.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue (and immediately dispose) or your elbow (if necessary)
- If you are sick, STAY HOME
- If you are sick, consult with your doctor by phone, especially if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms

These are concerning times, and LLTC is doing its utmost to secure the safety of those who come to learn, work and visit. Please watch you emails and our social media space for any updates.

Sincerely,

Raymond Burns