



Suggested Media Instructions:

Please run at your discretion.

Media Inquiries:

Lloyd Phillips

Commissioner of Public Safety,

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

lloyd.phillips@mck.ca

COMMUNIQUÉ

Task Force to declare Pandemic Status on daily basis

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 23, Seskehkó:wa/September 2020) The Kahnawà:ke COVID-19 Task Force wishes to update the community on a number of actions taken in relation to the ongoing pandemic.

First, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) passed a Resolution of Monday, September 21st to extend the State of Emergency until October 21st. The Resolution also includes the extension of the Mandate for the Task Force to continue its work to address the ongoing pandemic.

“In the past few weeks there had been whispers that the State of Emergency could be coming to an end, but we see that this isn’t realistic,” said Ratsénhaienhs Harry Rice, who represents the MCK on the Task Force. “But, with hundreds of new cases a day, it was an easy decision. There’s still a lot of work to do and we can’t start relaxing. COVID-19 is real, but we are fortunate to have a group of leaders who have dedicated themselves to keeping all of us as safe as possible.”

Because of the escalation in the pandemic the Task Force is announcing that it will soon begin a daily declaration on the Wave #2 status of the pandemic as it relates to Kahnawà:ke.

“The Status Declaration, which will utilize a color code similar to that used by Quebec, will be customized to meet Kahnawà:ke’s needs and provide the community with a snapshot of the current COVID-19 situation,” said Lloyd Phillips, the Commissioner of Public Safety and head of the Task Force. “This will be issued daily at approximately 6:30am via Facebook, radio and email. This Status Declaration could be an effective tool to reach those who don’t have the time or inclination to gather a great deal of information but still need a sense of the current situation.”

The daily Status Declaration will indicate or update on specific measures that need to be in place for the general public, organizations and businesses. Further information details will be forthcoming.

“With the dramatically increasing number of confirmed cases in the region it is important that we stay ahead of the curve,” Phillips continued. “We are continuing to modify our strategies to best protect our community, especially those most vulnerable to the virus. We will continue to use great caution in all of our decisions and directives, as the conservative approach has served us well. But we will continue to create effective messaging to remind us that we’re all in this together and that we all share the responsibility.”