

COMMUNITY NOTICE

COVID-19 Detected in Second Wastewater Sample

February 3, 2021 – The second consecutive week of testing at the Garden Village Wastewater Treatment Plant confirms the presence of COVID-19 (SARS CoV2 viral RNA) in the samples.

What we have learned since the initial results were received on January 23rd is that it takes several weeks of sampling to establish a baseline.

Surveillance will continue and once a baseline is set, subsequent sampling will indicate whether COVID is increasing, decreasing or staying the same.

What this early detection method tells us is that there was definitely one or more individuals with COVID-19 in Garden Village at the time of this testing. This could range from symptomatic, asymptomatic and/or someone who had COVID recently.

This heightens the need for everyone to be absolutely diligent in following public health guidelines, monitoring for symptoms and getting tested if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or are concerned they may have been exposed to COVID-19.

It is important to understand what we as individuals and as a community can do stay well and prevent the spread of COVID-19. This includes:

- Maintaining physical distance from anyone who doesn't live within your house,
- Practicing good hand hygiene,
- Wearing a face covering when in enclosed spaces and outdoors when physical distance cannot be maintained, and
- Following the stay-at-home order and not leaving your home except for essential reasons such as work, school, medical appointments, buying medication or groceries.

As difficult as it is, we must assume that everyone around us (even in our community) could have COVID-19 and take appropriate precautions to limit contact with those who don't live within our own household.

If you are concerned that you may have symptoms of COVID-19 or may have been exposed to COVID-19, public health recommends getting tested at an assessment centre. If you are unsure about your symptoms, you can call Telehealth at 1-866-797-0000 or use [Ontario's online self-assessment tool](#) for assistance.

To book an appointment at the North Bay COVID-19 Assessment Centre, call (705) 474-8600 ext. 4110. To book an appointment at the West Nipissing COVID-19 Assessment Centre, call (705) 580-2186.

If you have questions or concerns about this notice or COVID-19 testing at NFN wastewater treatment plants, please contact Patrick Stevens, Director of Community Infrastructure, at 705-498-2519 or patrick@nfn.ca.