



## **Ask about SOAHAC's COVID-19 Screening and Testing Services**

May 12, 2020

### **Why is SOAHAC providing COVID-19 screening and testing?**

As an Aboriginal Health Access Centre, our core mandate is to improve Indigenous health by increasing the accessibility and quality of health care services for Indigenous individuals, families, and communities. COVID-19 screening and testing are an expansion of our existing services intended to provide Indigenous people with options and increased accessibility of care.

### **Who is SOAHAC working with to provide COVID-19 screening and testing?**

SOAHAC has been working closely with Indigenous communities and health system partners – local public health units, regional pandemic planning tables, and LHINs. We are inviting input from and collaboration with First Nation communities in support of individualized responses in each community.

At our Chippewa site, we have been working closely with Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames and Munsee-Delaware Nation Health Centres, and are currently developing a partnership with Oneida EMS to explore possibilities for mobile testing for people with mobility barriers.

### **Who is eligible for COVID-19 screening and testing at SOAHAC?**

\*SOAHAC is in the process of confirming COVID-19 screening and testing services for all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people and families across our sites. This information will be released as soon as possible.

- Chippewas of the Thames site: You do not need to be a client of SOAHAC to be screened and tested at our Chippewa site. Services are open to community members of Chippewas of the Thames, Munsee-Delaware Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Delaware Nation.
- SOAHAC-London: Registered clients who have symptoms can be screened and tested at our clinic in London.\*
- SOAHAC-Windsor: You do not need to be a client of SOAHAC to be screened and tested at SOAHAC. These services are open to all First Nations, Métis and Inuit people living in and around Windsor and Essex County, including Caldwell First Nation in Leamington.
- SOAHAC-Owen Sound: Registered clients who have symptoms can be screened and tested at our Owen Sound site\*.

## **Where is SOAHAC offering COVID-19 testing?**

Testing is currently provided by appointment at SOAHAC:

- Chippewa: 77 Anishinaabeg Drive, Muncey ON. This location is in Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, neighbouring Munsee-Delaware and Oneida Nations.
- London: 425 William Street (registered clients only)
- Windsor: 1405 Tecumseh Road West
- Owen Sound: 733 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue East (registered clients only)

We are also working with community partners to explore mobile testing options for people with mobility barriers – please call for more information.

## **How can people access COVID-19 screening and testing?**

The first step is to call SOAHAC. Screening is done over the telephone with a health care provider at SOAHAC Monday – Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. Based on the screening, a testing appointment time and date are provided.

## **Is there a need for Indigenous-specific COVID-19 screening and testing?**

During the COVID-19 pandemic and always, we want to ensure Indigenous people have options, that they feel as safe and comfortable as possible and can access the services they need. AHACs recognize Indigenous rights to determination in health, and we support COVID-19 screening and testing services as identified and led by Indigenous communities and organizations across Ontario. We also recognize the need for Indigenous-specific responses as part of a broader strategy to address health equity for Indigenous people\*\*.

\*\*See [Letter to Minister Elliot regarding COVID-19 Response](#) and [Ontario must bring a health equity lens to new COVID-19 test technologies and data tools](#) from the Alliance for Healthier Communities.

## **Who can I contact for more information?**

Media/to set up an interview:

- Jan Martin, Director, Indigenous Relations: 519-494-1137
- Marianne Hebb, Executive Coordinator: 226-378-1238

For site-specific information related to COVID-19 screening and testing:

- Christi Poulette, Integrated Care Manager, SOAHAC-Chippewa: 519-289-0352
- Elayne Isaacs, Integrated Care Manager, SOAHAC-Windsor: 519-916-1755