

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fond du Lac Receives COVID-19 Vaccines FDL Starts Administering Vaccines

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, MN – December 22, 2020

Today, the Fond du Lac (FDL) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa received 700 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. The first round of vaccines will prioritize frontline healthcare workers and at-risk elders.

The FDL clinics, Mino-Aya-Win and Center of American Indian Resources, have confirmed 176 positive cases on and off the Reservation. “We are currently in a surge in positive cases, and this vaccine gives us the light at the end of the tunnel,” says Chairman Kevin Dupuis. “This is a historical moment for Fond du Lac. I encourage the community to educate themselves on this vaccination and to continue to take proper precautions to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.”

The first healthcare worker to receive the Moderna vaccination was FDL Medical Director Dr. Charity Reynolds. She has become a familiar face in the community, as she frequently participates in public services announcements to educate the community on COVID-19.

“I am humbled to be the first person from the medical team to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. It has been a tough year for us all, our lives have been turned upside down and so many losses including loss of loved ones. The COVID-19 vaccine brings new hope for a better tomorrow. The first step is vaccination but we must continue to follow public health guidelines of wearing masks, physically distancing, and being careful until cases start decreasing in number and hospitals are no longer at capacity. This may yet be awhile as people receive both vaccines 28 days apart and herd immunity is achieved says Dr. Charity Reynolds”

The Moderna vaccine is a two-dose series, meaning a booster shot is administered at least 28 days after the initial shot to maximize efficacy.

<pictures attached: Picture 1: The Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee accepting the first shipment of the Moderna vaccine. Picture 2: Dr. Charity Reynolds receiving the first vaccination on the Fond du Lac Reservation>



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About Fond du Lac Lake Superior Chippewa

The Fond du Lac Band (Nagaajiwanaang; where the water stops) is one of six Chippewa Indian Bands that make up the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The Fond du Lac Reservation was established by the La Pointe Treaty of 1854.

Archaeologists, however, maintain that ancestors of the present-day Chippewa (Ojibwe) have resided in the Great Lakes areas since 800 A.D. The Band includes 4,200 members.

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