

COVID 19 UPDATE

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Dr. Slagle, MITW Incident Command

On September 2, 2020, after six months of fighting off the Covid 19, the 19th Menominee case on the reservation was diagnosed. On October 2, 2020, the 115th case was diagnosed.

Numbers of cases in Menominee outside of Menominee County are at 100 (in nearby counties, there are some in others, including several deaths).

I can use mathematical terms to describe an increase from 19 to 115 in one month, like % increase, but suffice it to say this is a serious surge of Covid 19 cases.

Here is what a serious surge means:

- Menominee are now hospitalized, some in serious condition
- Tiny infants are now infected
- Entire households are in isolation and quarantined
- The Tribe must endure another Emergency order, trying to decrease the spread of disease, meaning less services for tribal members.
- There are very few hospital beds available in Green Bay, Shawano, or in the Fox Valley. Hospitals are full of Covid patients. So if you need to be in hospital for something

else, you may get admitted to the hallway, or sent to a far-away hospital.

How did a serious surge occur?

- No big events or super-spreader events have been identified, no outbreaks from schools or casino.
- The spread of infection is from letting the guard down, letting up on the safety precautions: mostly from small gatherings like a family meal, a Packer game party, sharing a ride without masks, small parties, birthday celebrations. Some people got exposed at work where safety measures weren't followed.

How can we crush this surge?

- **NO PACKER PARTIES THIS MONDAY!!!!** Really, the game can be enjoyed at home, with your family, no party needed.
- **Resist the urge to be "Out and About"**. Please, unless you have to go to work, get meds, or get groceries, just stay home.
- **Please do not visit Elders, or those with poor immunity:** you can call, wave from the yard, just don't go in the house. If you must, please please wear a mask.
- **If you live with Elders or those with poor immunity:** wear masks in the house and stay 6 feet away, lots of wiping down surfaces.

- **Don't travel.** And discourage family or friends who want to come visit. We are in a pandemic, the advice not to travel has not changed since March.
- **Wear a mask whenever in public, especially in stores.** Don't go to bars. Get take-out from restaurants.

At this point, you undoubtedly know people with Covid, if you have not been infected yourself. It is sobering how quickly the virus spread, once it found a foot-hold. Now, all we feared is happening. Elders lives are at risk. Think of all those you love and use that fierce love to make hard decisions: JUST STAY HOME! Make your decisions from your heart, with your loved ones in mind. Stay home for them. This surge CAN be crushed, but it takes action by everyone!

Thank you and be safe!

Dr. Amy Slagle, MD