

## MENOMINEE TRIBAL CLINIC UPDATE

FROM DR AMY SLAGLE , MD

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### What's changing at the Clinic:

- After 3 months of drastically reduced services due to Covid 19, MTC is slowly increasing the kinds and levels of care we deliver. We can do this because the community has done a great job of keeping Covid out (only 3 cases so far).
- This will be a slow process, like turning a dial, not flipping a switch (I keep saying that).
- More Dental appointments, more Eye appointments, more appointments in Medical. That's MORE, but not LOTS of appointments. Also Community health will do vaccines, Nutrition and Diabetes Education will start seeing patients again. WIC too. More appointments in Behavioral health.
- We will offer these increased services as long as Covid 19 cases stay low.

### What's NOT changing:

- We still have to keep all safety measures in place to keep Covid 19 out of the clinic; to keep patients and employees healthy.
- **WARNING:** this may seem un-necessary and very frustrating. **BUT** it is the only way we can "open-up" safely.

- All patients will still wear a mask as they enter the clinic (bring yours if you have one) and until they leave. All employees will wear a mask and many will wear eye goggles or a face shield.
- All patients will have their temperature checked and asked about Covid symptoms as they enter. If there is a fever, or there are any symptoms, you will be directed for Covid 19 testing before your scheduled appointment. Even if symptoms seem mild. Covid 19 symptoms can seem just like a mild cold. We have to take all symptoms seriously.
- Six feet social distancing will be required at Registration, at Pharmacy, and Lab. There will be irritating foot decals on the floor and staff may gently remind you. Chairs are six feet apart in waiting rooms.
- We still need to keep the number of people in the clinic to as few as necessary. This means most adult visits must be made alone. One adult may accompany a minor, or an adult needing assistance, or an OB patient. If extra people come for an appointment, they will not be allowed in. This is for safety.
- Pharmacy curbside service will continue for now. It will be much faster if you call in your refill at least 24 hours ahead. It will be much slower if you do not call ahead.
- If you are prescribed medication at a visit, you can go to pharmacy, but you can also drive around for curbside service.
- Please still call ahead and make an appointment.

### What Could Happen:

- If Covid cases increase, we may have to dial back to almost no patients; we hope that never happens.

- You could be really sick and tired of this whole Covid-thing and feel frustrated about being asked about fever and cough, and given a mask, asked to stand on a decal, and trying to talk to your dentist or doctor who is wearing an astronaut suit. You may wish the clinic could return to normal. We wish so too. We ask for your patience and your understanding that all of these extra steps and inconveniences are to keep our patients safe. We hope they will not last forever.
- You could hear others complain about the clinic, about the safety measures, about frustration. Maybe they didn't read this really interesting public service announcement! Please pass the word: MTC is opening up, slowly, and all the safety stuff must stay in place.
- You could mention your negative National Guard test. Unfortunately, it doesn't mean you are Covid-negative now; you will still need to be screened at the clinic door.

**IF YOU ARE OVER-DUE FOR A CHECK UP, OR AN EYE EXAM, OR A DENTAL EXAM, OR A CHAT WITH A THERAPIST, OR ANY OF YOUR CARE: PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT. IT MAY NOT BE IMMEDIATE BUT WE WILL SEE YOU SOON.**

**IN THE MEANTIME: Wear a mask, keep 6 feet away from others, wash your hands, and stay at home as much as you can! Covid 19 is still out there, just waiting for a chance; don't give it one!**