



**Whitesand First Nation
PO Box 68
Armstrong, ON
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Dear Whitesand Members:

On March 11, 2020, The World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 a pandemic. Upon learning the news Whitesand Chief and Council and administration began to meet and make plans for ensuring the safety and well being of members. Dealing with a life threatening pandemic is new and frightening to all of us. We have been consulting doctors, other experts, funding bodies and agencies to educate ourselves so we can make the best decisions to protect everyone. Based on the information we learned, Chief Gustafson issued a Declaration of Emergency for Whitesand First Nation on March 18, 2020.

Over the past 13 days, the tasks facing everyone has been overwhelming and we have been meeting everyday including on the weekends to make decisions and implement plans.

The first focus is on people living in the Whitesand/Armstrong area including Old Whitesand, Collins and Ferland. These areas do not have agencies such as foodbanks and medical care that are available in Thunder Bay and other cities.

The second focus is on community members who reside in Thunder Bay. We have been asking people who need assistance to register with the education office so that we have a way to keep people informed about what we are doing to help.

The third focus is people who live outside the first two areas. We urge everyone to access their local resources, while we are still working out our processes and what we can do to help.

We are doing our very best and trying hard to get this right to minimize the impact upon Whitesand First Nation.

Please be patient, please be kind and above all please stay home, practice social distancing, hand washing and disinfecting your home.