



NARRAGANSETT INDIAN HEALTH CENTER

Improving health in our community

July 31, 2023

Dear Tribal Member,

We are writing to let you know that NIHC continues to work to protect the health and well-being of the most vulnerable among us, including those with a compromised immune system. Though the numbers have decreased, we continue to conduct tests for COVID-19 upon request and while fewer in number, we continue to receive positive results.

Therefore, all NIHC employees will continue to wear a mask throughout the month of August. Also, all patients and visitors with or without COVID-19 like symptoms will continue to be required to wear a mask and to complete a COVID-19 screen before entering the NIHC.

The surrounding communities stopped wearing masks in May/June. Therefore, because the Annual August Meeting and many other large summer gathering events will be held, we will continue to wear masks until September. This is to allow time for the NIHC and the Tribal Government to assess whether cases of COVID-19 reported to the clinic or throughout RI increase within the tribal community, over the summer and during the two weeks following the powwow and NIHC health fair.

Due to the numbers of people testing at home with home test kits or at locations other than the health center, we are asking that you let us know if you test positive at home or elsewhere to help us better assess the rates of COVID-19 in our tribal community. Please call 401.364.1263 ext. 107 anytime, to report a positive test result. Please leave a message if you reach the answering machine or answering service.

If an assessment of the surrounding communities and the tribal community following the powwow does not indicate an increase in the rate of COVID-19 and/or COVID-19 related hospitalizations, staff and patients will no longer be required to wear masks, as of September 1st, 2023. If an increase is detected, we will reassess our COVID-19 mask protocols and screening requirements, accordingly.

This message is also posted on the Tribal Website. Please share it with your tribal family.

We hope you are enjoying your summer and wish you well.

Sincerely,


Your NIHC Team