COVID-19 Response Update

Dear Indian Health Board of Minneapolis (IHB) community:

We are committed to community and cultural health. While promoting and preserving our urban American Indian and Alaska Native traditions and identity, we serve all people seeking patient-centered, culturally sensitive health care and wellness services. For those reasons, the Indian Health Board is paying close attention to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and how it is impacting our clinic, our state, and country. I want to let the community and our patients know what activities the Indian Health Board (IHB) is taking to protect and support you and our community’s health.

IHB follows direction from the Centers for Disease Control and the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines and protocols to slow the spread of COVID-19. Starting March 18, 2020 our clinic will operate from Monday to Friday at 8:45 am to 5 pm.

What IHB is Doing:

• Implementing clinical protocols and guidelines in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Minnesota Department of Health’s changing guidelines.
• Screening and triaging all patients entering into the clinic beginning on Wednesday, March 18th. You may have your temperature checked and you may be asked if you have a cough or fever before entering the building.
• Canceling our Tuesday evening extended clinic hours due to limited staffing.
• Treating and caring for those with an underlying health condition or who are at-risk for COVID-19 via phone or video if possible.
• Deferring preventative care appointments to prevent exposure to COVID-19.
• Deferring preventative dental visits to prioritize only emergency dental procedures.
• Updating our website with information to help you understand COVID-19 and what you can do to protect yourself and your community.
• Actively taking steps to protect staff to ensure availability and their health and safety.
• Asking that no visitors come to IHB to minimize community spread. IHB will not be holding any meetings or groups until we revisit them again on April 10th.
• Canceling patient transportation.
• Assigning certain staff to retrieve general questions to discuss patients options to call providers, ask questions, receive remote behavioral health support, and online screenings.

This is a time of rapid change at our clinic. We are doing what we can to ensure the safety of our staff and patients. I appreciate your support and grace as we navigate this emerging pandemic. IHB will be ready to serve your needs. Please continue to take care of yourself and others.

Sincerely,

PATRICK ROCK, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer