

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Office Closure Extended until January 25, 2021

January 8, 2021 – Following yesterday's [announcement](#) that Ontario is extending the provincewide shutdown for another 14 days (until midnight on Saturday, January 23, 2021), Nipissing First Nation (NFN) Council has decided that **NFN offices will remain closed to most staff until Monday, January 25, 2021.**

NFN's extended holiday closure will end as scheduled on January 9th, and NFN staff are expected to be available to work their next scheduled shift. NFN has the tools in place to enable the majority of our staff to work remotely, therefore managers will work with their staff to ensure their duties are fulfilled during this extended office closure.

Essential services will continue to be delivered during this time, and only staff who cannot work from home will be permitted to be on-site to perform their duties. This is to minimize unnecessary contact to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our community in line with provincial shutdown measures.

Impacts to NFN Business Operations

- **NFN Offices:** Closed to staff until Monday, January 25th with staff working remotely from January 11th to January 24th. Please note that our offices remain closed to the public until further notice.
- **NFN Daycares:** Couchie Memorial Daycare and Nipissing Ojibway Daycare will resume operations on January 11th for existing registrants and where both parents/guardians require daycare services due to return to work obligations.
- **NFN Afterschool Program:** Closed until Monday, January 25th.
- **Nbisiing Secondary School:** Virtual classes will continue to be offered until January 22nd. A 2-week active screening for staff and students will be implemented when the school reopens for in-person learning on Monday, January 25th.
- **NFN Businesses:** Essential businesses can continue operating within COVID-19 guidelines, and non-essential businesses can provide curbside pick-up and delivery options only until January 23rd.

NFN's Response to the Provincewide Shutdown

NFN Health Services and our Crisis Control Group have worked diligently throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain levels of service and to protect the health, safety and well-being of our community.

NFN follows all public health recommendations and is adapting the province's [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) to better meet our specific needs. This framework is paused while the provincewide shutdown is in effect. Chief and Council remain committed to undertaking additional measures required to keep our community safe.

Please see the following pages for more information about NFN businesses, local school boards, essential services and contacts during our extended office closure.

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For businesses operating on NFN, the shutdown restrictions mean:

- Essential businesses (providing gas and/or groceries) can continue operating with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. NFN staff are following up to ensure these measures are up-to-date.
- Non-essential businesses can provide products/services via curbside pick-up or delivery only.
- If you have any questions about what will be open or impacts to your business or employment, call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.
- The Government of Ontario is announcing the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant, which provides a minimum of \$10,000 and up to \$20,000 to eligible small business owners to help them through this challenging period. This one-time grant is only available to small businesses required to close or restrict services under the provincewide shutdown. More details to come this month.

For students, all elementary and secondary students (except Nbisiing Secondary School students) will return to in-person learning on Monday, January 11th. Please use the links below to provincial school board websites to access updates for your child/children's school:

- Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board - www.npsc.ca
- Near North District School Board - www.nearnorthschools.ca
- Conseil Scolaire catholique Franco-Nord - www.franco-nord.ca
- Conseil Scolaire public du Nord-Est de L'Ontario - www.cspne.ca
- Post-Secondary Students – Virtual learning from January 4th-22nd, with students returning to in-person learning on January 25th.
- Adult Education Students – Students can continue to receive and submit assignments by coordinating safe curbside pick-up and drop-off arrangements with the instructor.

A reminder that NFN's travel advisory remains in effect until further notice. Please limit all travel outside of your home to necessary trips such as going to work, attending medical appointments or getting groceries. It is **strongly** advised not to travel outside of the district, especially to areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases. If you have to travel, please remain at your destination, limit non-essential trips outside of the household, and return to your own household as soon as possible.

All plans are subject to change, however at this time, NFN intends to reopen all of our offices to employees on Monday, January 25th, 2021. Our offices remain closed to the public until further notice.

Please see page 3 for a listing of essential services and contacts during our extended closure.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES & CONTACTS

NFN staff will be working from home and essential services will be maintained during the closure period (note: there may be some adjustments to the services provided). NFN plans to reopen our offices to staff on Monday, January 25, 2021, however plans are subject to change as the situation continues to evolve.

HEALTH SERVICES:

- Community Health
- Home and Community Care
- Essential Client Transportation
- Medical Transportation

Kimberly Lalonde – Director of Health Services
705-753-3312 ext. 2223 | kiml@nfn.ca

Carole Lafantaisie – Community Health Nurse
705-840-8830 | chn@nfn.ca

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS:

Right Path Essential Client Services
705-753-1375 (*please leave a message*)

Overdose Prevention Line
1-888-853-8542

SOCIAL SERVICES:

- Ojibway Women's Lodge
- NFN Food Bank
- Ontario Works
- Child Welfare (Emergency)

Debbie McLeod – Director of Social Services
705-753-2050 ext. 1230 | debbiem@nfn.ca

Ojibway Women's Lodge Emergency Line
705-472-3321

Food Bank & Social Services Emergency Access
Wednesday, December 30th from 9am – noon

Food Bank Access Days in January
Wednesday, January 6th & 20th

For general questions and inquiries, please contact:

Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer
705-753-2050 ext. 1222 | brendanh@nfn.ca

HOUSING:

Emergency Repairs/Maintenance
705-477-1586

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS:

- Water & Wastewater Treatment
- Garbage & Recycling Pick Up
- Landfill Operations *reduced hours*
- Building & Road Maintenance

Patrick Stevens – Director of Community Infrastructure 705-498-2519 | patrick@nfn.ca

Steve Doucette – Public Works Manager
705-840-3626 | steved@nfn.ca

EDUCATION & CHILD CARE:

Nancy Allaire – Director of Education
705-753-6995 | nancya@nfn.ca

Carole Couillard – Nbisiing School Principal
705-497-9938 | carolec@nbisiing.com

Brandie Fong – Daycare Closures
705-753-3312 | brandief@nfn.ca

BUSINESS SUPPORT/INQUIRIES:

Thomas Lambert – Employment & Training Manager 705-753-6985 | thomasl@nfn.ca

Melvin McLeod – Emergency Services Manager
705-498-4407 | melvinm@nfn.ca

Stop the Spread Business Info Line
1-888-444-3659

Freda Martel, Director of Administration
705-753-2050 ext. 1223 | fredam@nfn.ca

You can also visit our website for regular updates about operations during the closure: nfn.ca/covid19