

COMMUNITY UPDATE #2

Changes to Operations During New Provincial Measures

January 14, 2021 – In response to Ontario’s second declaration of emergency and new public health measures, Nipissing First Nation (NFN) Council has approved changes to our operations. This is to align with the provincewide stay-at-home order and shutdown restrictions that will be in effect for 28 days.

COVID-19 illnesses and deaths are at the highest levels since the start of the pandemic, and urgent action is needed to significantly reduce the number of contacts people are having. The purpose of these enhanced measures is to keep people home as much as possible to stop the spread of COVID-19 in communities, protect vulnerable populations, and prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed.

The stay-at-home order is asking that people remain at their home and on their property unless necessary to leave for essential reasons such as work, school, health care, groceries or to get some outdoor activity. If you are away from your home or property, keep in mind that this order allows police and other officers to stop you and ask why you might not be home.

Impacts to NFN Business Operations

- **NFN Offices:** Closed to staff until Tuesday, February 16th (Monday, February 15th is Family Day). Staff will work remotely during this time. Only staff who cannot work from home will be permitted to be on-site to perform their duties. Our offices remain closed to the public until further notice. This is to minimize contact to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our community in line with enhanced public health measures requiring workplaces to ensure all employees work from home if they can.
- **NFN Daycares:** The Couchie Memorial Daycare and Nipissing Ojibway Daycare remain open for existing registrants, and where both parents/guardians require childcare due to work obligations.
- **NFN Afterschool Program:** Closed until Tuesday, February 16th.
- **Nipissing 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* (providing gas and/or groceries) can continue operating with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. NFN staff are working with businesses to ensure these measures are up to date. *Non-essential businesses* can only be open between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Businesses can provide products/services via curbside pick-up or delivery only until February 11th. *Please note that patrons must pre-order by phone or online before arriving at the business (with the exception of convenience stores).
- **Garden Village Outdoor Rink:** Closed effective January 14, 2021 and until further notice. This closure is in accordance with the requirements issued today by the Medical Officer of Health to close all outdoor public ice rinks and sliding hills in the Nipissing Parry Sound District.
- **Shuttle Service (Duchesnay Creek Bridge):** Hours of operation reduced to 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Enhanced Security Patrols:** Extended until Wednesday, February 10th across NFN communities.

New Public Health Measures Impacting NFN Members

- **Gatherings:** Limit close contact to only members of your household (the people you live with). If you live alone or are a single parent, you may join one other household. Up to five (5) people may gather outdoors as long as you can keep 2 metres physical distance from each other. You should also wear a mask or face covering. Up to ten (10) people can attend a wedding, funeral or religious service. Fines for not following gathering rules are being enforced (organizers can be fined up to \$10,000 and each attendee may receive a \$750 ticket).
- **Elementary & Secondary Students:** Students in **Grades 1 to 12** must wear masks or face coverings in schools, outdoors when not able to maintain physical distancing and on school transportation, including Nbising Bus Lines. Enhanced screening protocols and new screening criteria will be updated on [Ontario's COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#), along with implementing expanded targeted testing. Check your child's school board websites for more information and updates about these new health and safety measures for students:
 - 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

The **Support for Learners** program is now available to all students up to grade 12. Eligible families can receive \$200 for each child or youth up to Grade 12 and \$250 for each child or youth up to age 21 with special needs. The deadline to apply is February 8, 2021 and applications can be submitted here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-support-students-and-parents#section-0>

- **Post-Secondary Institutions** – Open for virtual instruction, with limited exceptions where in-person teaching is required (i.e. clinical training, trades). In-person learning will be available for students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated through remote learning.
- **Adult Education Students** – Students can continue to receive and submit assignments by coordinating safe curbside pick-up and drop-off arrangements with the instructor.

More Information:

- [COVID-19 Public Health Measures & Restrictions](#)
 - [Full list of public health measures, restrictions and essential businesses](#)
- [Emergency information and COVID-19 orders in force](#)
- [Help for businesses](#)
- [COVID-19 case data](#)
- [Resources to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace](#)
- [Read the full list of reasons you can go out in the regulation \(PDF\)](#)
- [Download the COVID Alert mobile app](#)

All plans are subject to change, however NFN intends to reopen all of our offices to employees on Tuesday, February 16th, 2021. Our offices remain closed to the public until further notice.
Please see page 3 for a listing of contacts during our extended closure.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES & CONTACTS

HEALTH SERVICES:

- Community Health
- Home and Community Care
- 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*)

Harm reduction supplies are available every Thursday from 1pm – 4:30pm at 316 Ted Commanda Drive. Knock at the door and supplies will be prepared for you, or you can call the office or email lisal@nfn.ca to make arrangements.

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 Access Days

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month (January 20th
Wednesday, February 3rd & 17th)

For general questions and inquiries, please contact:

Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer

705-753-2050 ext. 1222 | brendanh@nfn.ca

HOUSING – NFN APARTMENT UNITS:

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 – Manager of Children's Services

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

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

Stay Home, Stay Safe, Save Lives