

COMMUNITY UPDATE #5

Our Region Returning to Red (Control) Zone of Provincial Framework

March 5, 2021 – The Ontario government [announced today](#) that the North Bay Parry Sound District will return to the provincial [COVID-19 response framework](#) at the **Red (Control)** level on Monday, March 8th at 12:01 a.m. The province made this decision in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the local Medical Officer of Health based on key public health indicators.

As stated in the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit's [news release](#) that followed the province's announcement, "the Health Unit had been effectively shutdown and under a Stay-At-Home Order since December 26, 2020, and had remained under such an order recently as the result of the recent presence of COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOCs) in the community. Today's announcement allows the Health Unit to slowly progress to less restrictive measures, while still recognizing the ongoing importance of public health measures to protect those most vulnerable in our community. The movement to Red – Control level was based on the local COVID-19 situation, the presence of VOCs in our community, and the continued elevated case load and pandemic outcome in neighbouring health units."

A summary of how the Red (Control) zone restrictions impact NFN Operations and Businesses is provided below. A reminder that NFN staff will continue working remotely until March 22nd, and that Nbisying Secondary School will continue to provide virtual instruction until March 22nd as we advised in [Update #4](#). Further, the After School Program is scheduled to resume on March 22nd.

The extension of our work from home measures by two weeks beyond the provincial orders was to ensure that we could be proactive in planning our business operations to minimize disruptions as much as possible as the situation continues to evolve.

Updates about NFN Operations & Businesses

- **Duchesnay Creek Bridge Shuttle Service** will return to its regular hours of operation from 6am to 12am (midnight) as of March 8th. The after-hours taxi service will be available for essential trips between 12am and 6am.
- **Garden Village Outdoor Rink** reopened on February 22nd and the current maximum on-ice capacity limit of 15 people is in accordance with Orange or Red zone designations. The hours of operation are from 10am to 10pm daily and monitors are in place to ensure compliance with capacity limits and health precautions, and to collect information of participants for contact tracing purposes.
 - *** NEW:** No spectators are permitted, however each person under 18 may be accompanied by one parent or guardian.
 - Team sports must not be practiced or played except for training (no games or scrimmage).
 - The collection of contact information and screen of all facility users is required.

We highly recommend booking your time slot in advance using this online booking tool: timify.com/en-ca/profile/odrbookings/?v=4. For any issues with this booking system, contact Vicky Laforce at 705-753-6971 or vickyl@nfn.ca.

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- **NFN Businesses:** As of March 8th, non-essential businesses can resume normal operations with COVID-19 safety measures in place.
 - * **NEW for Retail Stores as of February 2021:**
 - Stores must have passive screening for patrons (for example, posting signs outside the store front about not entering if you have COVID-19 symptoms).
 - Capacity limits of 75% for stores that primarily sell groceries, convenience stores, pharmacies and 50% for all other retail stores.
 - Stores must post capacity limit publicly.
 - Updated **safety plan** is required and made available upon request.
 - * **NEW for all Businesses and Organizations:** Active screening of workers is now required before they enter the business (for example, confirm workers do not have COVID-19 symptoms before they come into the workplace) using an online or hard copy screening tool. You can access Ontario's online worker screening tool **here**.
 - Limit capacity inside so that each person can stay 2 metres apart. Face coverings over nose, mouth and chin required inside.
 - No line ups outside unless customers wear a face covering **and** can stay 2 metres apart.
- **Gathering Limits:** As of March 8th, the limits for all organized public events and social gatherings where physical distancing can be maintained is **5 people indoors & 25 people outdoors**. Limits for religious services or ceremonies, including weddings and funerals, in any venue other than a private dwelling is 30% capacity of the room indoors or 100 people outdoors.

Staying home is still the best way to protect yourself and others. Avoid social gatherings and limit close contacts to those in your house. It is also recommended you wear a face covering when meeting with others from another household whether you are indoors or outdoors.

- **Reminder to Register for a COVID-19 Vaccine:** Call Nipissing First Nation Health Services at (705) 753-3312 to add your name to a list to be registered for a COVID-19 vaccine. Please call only once and allow our team up to 48 hours to follow up with you due to the high volume of calls.

Vaccines are expected to arrive the week of March 8th. If you have registered for a vaccine someone from the Health Centre will call you to book an appointment. Everyone eligible to receive a vaccine in Nipissing First Nation will be offered one, with those at greater risk of exposure, illness and death being offered vaccines first if the supply is limited. The criteria to be added to the registration list *if you are over 16 years old* is as follows:

- *Live in Nipissing First Nation; or*
- *Are a Nipissing First Nation member living off-reserve and can attend a vaccine clinic here; or*
- *You are employed by Nipissing First Nation, or by a business located on NFN.*

You must register in advance to receive the vaccine. We will not be accepting walk-up/walk-in appointments. The North Bay Indigenous Hub will be hosting vaccine clinics for the urban Indigenous community of the Nipissing-Parry Sound Districts and can be reached at 705-995-0060.

For more information about the registration process and COVID-19 vaccines, please visit nfn.ca/covid19 or refer to pages 3-6 in the **March issue of Enkamgak**. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Community Health Nurse, Carole Lafantaisie, at 705-753-3312 or chn@nfn.ca.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES & CONTACTS – FEBRUARY 2021

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 call the office or email lisal@nfn.ca to make arrangements. The Suboxone Clinic at the Health Centre is open 8:30am – 4:30pm.

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

HOUSING – NFN APARTMENT UNITS:

Emergency Repairs/Maintenance
705-477-1586

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS:

- Water & Wastewater Treatment
- Garbage & Recycling Pick Up
- Landfill Operations
- 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

For general questions and inquiries, please contact:

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

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

Please visit our website for regular updates about our programs and operations: nfn.ca/covid19

Do your part. Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Kind and Save Lives.