

COMMUNITY UPDATE #14

Our Offices will Reopen to Staff on Monday, June 14th Updates on Provincial Measures, COVID-19 Vaccines & Rapid Testing

June 2, 2021 – The majority of Nipissing First Nation (NFN) staff have been working remotely since the Christmas break to minimize the potential for exposure to COVID-19 for our employees and community members. NFN has consistently aligned our operations with provincial orders and public health measures, including the stay-at-home order that expires today.

With many of our staff and community members having built immunity by receiving vaccines, and with the enhanced workplace policies, safety measures and PPE protocols that we implemented throughout the pandemic, we are confident it is safe for staff to return to their offices and work sites on **Monday, June 14th**, which coincides with when Ontario's expects to enter Stage One of the *Roadmap to Reopen*.

Staff are required to follow NFN's *Preventing COVID-19 in the Workplace Policy*, to wear a face covering inside all NFN vehicles and buildings (unless alone in their office or behind a plexiglass barrier), and to self-screen daily for symptoms (and to report any symptoms to the Community Health Nurse for follow up).

Offices remain closed to the public until further notice; however, services continue to be available by appointment, curbside and by phone or email. Drop boxes are located at the Administration Building main entrance, Finance department, Culture Centre, Education Office & Natural Resources.

Updates about NFN Operations & Businesses

- **NFN Daycares**: The Nipissing Ojibway Daycare and Couchie Memorial Daycare remain open for existing registrants, and where both parents/guardians require childcare due to work obligations.
- **Nbisiing Secondary School**: Virtual classes will continue to be offered until the end of the school year. Nbisiing's graduation ceremony will be livestreamed on their Facebook page on June 18th at 6:00 p.m.
- **Summer Children's Program CANCELLED**: Financial subsidies will be offered again this year to offset childcare costs (including in-home babysitting services). Watch for more details in the July newsletter, on our website at nfn.ca and on the NFN Administration and Health & Recreation Facebook pages, or contact Brandie Fong, Manager of Children's Services, at 705-753-3312 ext. 3001 or brandief@nfn.ca.
- **Shuttle Service (Duchesnay Creek Bridge)**: The shuttle will resume regular hours of operation from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight) effective June 13th. The after-hours taxi service will be available for essential trips between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. by calling 705-497-7777 (U-Need-A-Cab).
- **NFN Businesses** (until Ontario enters Step One of the Reopening Framework around June 14th):
 - ***Essential businesses*** (providing gas and/or groceries) can continue operating with COVID-19 safety precautions in place and a cap of 25% capacity.
 - ***Non-essential businesses*** are still limited to curbside pick-up or delivery only.

Ontario’s Roadmap to Reopen

Ontario’s Stay-at-Home order is lifted as of today, however all public health and workplace measures will remain in place provincially until Ontario enters Step One of the *Roadmap to Reopen*, which is expected around June 14th and will be confirmed closer to that date.

The province will remain in each of the steps for at least 21 days to evaluate any impacts on key public health indicators. If the vaccination thresholds have been met after 21 days, and other indicators are positive, then the province will move forward to the next stage.

UNTIL WE ENTER STAGE ONE, THE FOLLOWING MEASURES STILL APPLY:

- Indoor gatherings are still limited to your own households only and outdoor gatherings can have up to five people
- Wedding, funerals and religious services are limited to a maximum of 10 people indoors OR 10 people outdoors
- Essential retail has a cap of 25% capacity and non-essential retail is still limited to curbside pickup and delivery only
- Restaurants and bars are only open for take-out, drive-through and delivery service

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES & BUSINESSES REMAIN CLOSED:

- Personal care services (i.e. hair and nail salons)
- Personal fitness and training facilities – no indoor or outdoor sports or classes are permitted
- Daycamps and overnight camps
- Cinemas, casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments

For more information, please view the Roadmap to Reopen here: ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario.

COVID-19 Roadmap to Reopen – Key Highlights



* Key health indicators include declining hospitalization, ICU, cases rate and % positivity

Based on current trends in key health indicators, including the provincial vaccination rate, Ontario expects to enter Step One of the roadmap around June 14, 2021.

For the full plan, visit ontario.ca/reopen

Community Notice – June 2, 2021

Offices Reopen to Staff on June 14th; Updates on Provincial Measures, Vaccines & Rapid Testing

Update on COVID-19 Vaccines

As of May 31st, our team of NFN nurses have administered 2,855 vaccines and 897 NFN residents have now received both doses of the Moderna vaccine. 1,483 individuals have received a 1st dose of Moderna (90.5% of eligible registrants) and 1,372 individuals have received their 1st & 2nd doses (83.76% of eligible registrants). There are currently 109 individuals on the waitlist for a 1st dose, which includes 87 individuals aged 12 to 17 years who are awaiting a 1st dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

Community members **aged 12 to 17 years** or those in this age group residing in an NFN household can call the Health Centre at 705-753-3312 to register for a **Pfizer vaccine**.

Individuals are encouraged to not wait as we can only order vaccines for those registered for one.

Youth Vaccination Clinics are scheduled for June 8th in Garden Village and June 10th in Duchesnay.

Appointments will be scheduled as soon as we receive our supply of vaccines.

NFN Health Services has held 28 adult immunization clinics to date and is now moving to appointment-based bookings at the Health Centre on Wednesday afternoons for the month of June. Eligible adults wanting a Moderna vaccine appointment are to call the Health Centre at 705-753-3312. After this month, adults seeking a COVID-19 vaccine may be referred to another provider.

Rapid Testing on NFN

NFN has secured four (4) COVID-19 testing units that will be operated by our trained and qualified nurses. This method of testing is less invasive and delivers results within 15 minutes. Two (2) tests can be done at a time, so we are able to perform eight (8) tests per half hour and you will leave with a printout of your results.

It is important to note that these units serve as a surveillance tool and do not provide a laboratory confirmed result. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 at one of our rapid testing units will be sent for a test at an assessment centre to confirm the result. Individuals who test negative will not need to take further action if there is no concern about possible exposure to COVID-19.

To inquire about getting a rapid test, please call the Health Centre at 705-753-3312.

Contacts

If you are concerned about a potential exposure to COVID-19 or have any questions about vaccines, please contact our Community Health Nurse, Carole Lafantaisie, at 705-840-8830. Other inquiries may be directed to Kimberly Lalonde, Director of Health Services, at 705-498-3698.

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit's COVID-19 call centre has a new toll-free phone number (1-844-478-1400) for individuals to discuss general or school concerns related to COVID-19.

Please visit nfn.ca/covid19 for regular updates and links to helpful information.