

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Holiday Office Closure & Return to Remote Work Measures

December 17, 2021 – Nipissing First Nation’s holiday closure is from December 22nd to January 4th this year. However, due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, NFN staff who can work from home have been directed to do so starting on December 20, 2021 until January 21, 2022.

Although we reopened our offices to the public two days a week starting on December 7th, these plans were made prior to the arrival of the Omicron variant. This variant is the most rapidly spreading variant of the group as evidenced in the swift increase in the number of new cases.

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit issued a news release yesterday warning that we are seeing the highest daily case counts since mid-May. By the end of the month, it’s expected that nearly 100 per cent of all cases in the province will be Omicron and that case counts will continue to rise.

As a result, and in keeping with our approach throughout the pandemic, we are taking a proactive approach to mitigate the risk of spread within our community by closing our offices to the public and allowing staff to work from home wherever possible.

NFN has the tools in place to enable the majority of our staff to work remotely, as we have done during previous shutdowns. Upon our return from the Christmas holidays, staff will be checking email and voicemail daily. We will continue to do our best to maintain levels of service and a sense of normalcy as the situation evolves.

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.

Impacts to NFN Business Operations

- **NFN Offices:** Closed to staff until Monday, January 24, 2022 with staff working remotely on December 20 & 21 and from January 5 to 21. Note that our offices are closed to the public until further notice.
- **NFN Daycares:** NFN Child Care centres are closed from December 22, 2021 to January 4, 2022 and will maintain current services when the centres reopen on January 5, 2022. Please note that the centres will resume “door drop-offs and pick-ups” and parents/guardians will not be able to enter child care centres during the temporary work from home measures. This will be reassessed before January 21, 2022.
- **Nbisiing Secondary School:** Nbisiing Secondary School will begin virtual learning on December 20th and will resume virtual learning on January 5, 2022. The school intends to resume in-person learning on Monday, January 24, 2022.

All plans are subject to change. Please visit nfn.ca for updates.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Information

In the face of the rapidly spreading Omicron variant, we have to focus on what we *can* control. Continuing to follow public health measures, limiting our close contacts, and unfortunately, as of just recently, rethinking our holiday plans again this year.

The best layer of protection is getting vaccinated and we thank everyone who has rolled up their sleeves to do their part to protect themselves, their loved ones and our community. Chi-Miigwech.

We know that Ontario is accelerating the roll-out of 3rd doses (also called boosters) for anyone over the age of 18, and NFN has been offering 3rd doses to all eligible adults since they became available to us on November 15th. The minimum time between a 2nd dose and a booster dose is now 84 days.

If your 2nd dose was on September 27th or earlier, you're eligible for a booster December 20th.

Our incredible Health Services team has administered over 4,000 doses of Moderna and Pfizer vaccines to date, with 3,700 adult doses of Moderna, 327 Pfizer vaccines to youth and 57 Pfizer vaccines to children between the ages of 5-11 years.

If you haven't already done so, you can book an appointment for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd dose of an adult vaccine, or register for vaccines for children and youth aged 5 and up by calling the Lawrence Commanda Health Centre at 705-753-3312. Vaccine clinics through our LCHC will be scheduled after January 10th.

If you want to get a vaccine sooner, our local health unit is planning clinics throughout the holidays and you can book an appointment starting December 20th by calling 705-995-3810.

You can also visit the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit's website at myhealthunit.ca to find out when and where clinics are scheduled, or follow their Facebook page. Many pharmacies are also offering COVID-19 vaccines. Contact your pharmacy directly to see if you can book an appointment.

If you or a family member develop any symptoms, you can contact the North Bay Regional Health Centre at 474-8600 ext. 4110 to book an appointment for testing, or book an appointment at the West Nipissing COVID-19 assessment centre by calling 753-3110 ext. 357.

If you don't have symptoms, antigen testing is available at the Lakeshore Drive and Josephine Street Shoppers Drug Mart locations in North Bay.

Crisis Intervention & Wellness Resources

Crisis intervention services are available in North Bay by calling 495-8198 and in Sturgeon Falls by calling 753-3110 ext. 288. In an emergency, please call 911. Access to detox and crisis beds is available through the North Bay Regional Health Centre's Detox Program by calling 476-6240.

Please see the next page for a listing of crisis intervention and wellness resources.



CRISIS RESOURCES

Hope for Wellness

1 (855) 242-3310 or www.hopeforwellness.ca

Kids Help Phone

Call: (1800)668-6868

Text: text CONNECT to 686868

Messenger: [KidsHelpPhone.ca/Messenger](https://www.kidshelphone.ca/Messenger)

Website for resources: www.kidshelphone.ca

Crisis Intervention - North Bay and Sturgeon Falls

North Bay - (705)495-8198

Sturgeon Falls - (705)753-3110 x288

Harm Reduction Services - Supplies including Naloxone kits

Sturgeon Falls: Alliance Centre will be open over the holidays
except for December 27 & 28 and January 1

North Bay: North Bay and District Health Unit will be open over the holidays
except for December 27 and 28 and January 1

Please note that Naloxone kits are also available at most area pharmacies.

North Bay Regional Health Centre

Community Detox Program - (705)476-6240

Access to detox and crisis beds

