

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Holiday Office Closure Extended until January 11, 2021

December 22, 2020 – Following yesterday’s announcement by Premier Doug Ford that Ontario is imposing a [provincewide shutdown](#) effective 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, December 26, 2020, Nipissing First Nation Council has decided that the **closure of all NFN offices will be extended until Monday, January 11, 2021.**

Impacts to NFN Business Operations

- **NFN Offices:** Closed until Monday, January 11th (*extended from Monday, January 4th*).
- **NFN Daycares:** Couchie Memorial Daycare and Nipissing Ojibway Daycare closed until Monday, January 11th. Parents/guardians requiring alternate childcare during this one-week period should contact Brandie Fong, Children’s Services Manager, to discuss options and subsidies.
- **NFN Afterschool Program:** Closed until Monday, January 11th.
- **Nipissing Secondary School:** School closed and students will learn remotely from January 4th- 8th. Staff will return to the school on Monday, January 11th and students will continue learning remotely. The school will reopen 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.

Details of the Provincewide Shutdown

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise at an alarming rate across the province (with over 2,000 cases per day for seven consecutive days), this shutdown is intended to prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed and to minimize the spread of the virus by encouraging people to stay home as much as possible.

Our region remains in the “Green” zone with very low COVID numbers (and no cases on NFN), but the current [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) will be paused when the provincewide shutdown comes into effect. All regions will be in shutdown, with some differences between northern and southern Ontario:

- **Northern Ontario** – 14-day shutdown (*NFN falls under Northern Ontario restrictions*)
- **Southern Ontario** – 28-day shutdown

The impacts of these time-limited measures will be evaluated throughout to determine if it is safe to lift any restrictions or if they need to be extended. Northern Ontario’s shutdown will last until at least Saturday, January 9th.

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.

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NFN follows all public health recommendations and is adapting the province's framework to better meet our specific needs. Chief and Council are committed to undertaking additional measures required to keep our community safe.

For businesses operating on NFN, the new restrictions mean:

- Essential businesses (providing gas and/or groceries) can continue operating with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. NFN staff will be 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 in January.

For students, the situation varies based on school age and school board/institution:

- Adult Education Students – Students can continue to receive and submit assignments by coordinating safe curbside pick-up and drop-off arrangements with the instructor.
- Elementary Students (Kindergarten to Grade 8) – Schools closed and students will *learn remotely from January 4th-8th* and return to *in-person learning on January 11th*. For further details from provincial school boards about when students will attend in class, please visit:
 - 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
- Secondary/Post-Secondary Students – Students return to *virtual learning from January 4th-22nd*, and *in-person learning on January 25th*.

With Ontario undertaking these extreme measures during the holiday season, it is clear that nothing is more important right now than people staying home to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

Our actions now will determine our future over the next several months. Staying home is a small sacrifice we need to make to protect each other and to preserve our health care system.

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 11th, 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 holiday closure.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES & CONTACTS

The following essential services will be maintained during the closure period (December 21st, 2020 to January 8th, 2021) though there may be some adjustments to the services provided.

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

HOUSING:

Emergency Repairs/Maintenance
705-477-1586

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS:

- Water & Wastewater Treatment
- Garbage & Recycling Pick Up
- Building & Road Maintenance

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

Steve Doucette – Public Works Manager
705-840-3626 | stev@dofn.ca

EDUCATION & CHILD CARE:

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

Carole Couillard – Nbsiing School Principal
705-497-9938 | carolec@nbsiing.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

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

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