

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg COVID-19 Check-in and Gate System

We feel it is necessary to take this step to protect the lives of those people living in Biigtigong and those individuals living in the surrounding area. We will be setting up a community gate and check-in station. This will be set up at the corner of Highway 627 and the north end of Pic River Road. Members of council, staff and new hires will be manning the gate and check-in station. Please be patient as we work towards making the execution of these measures effective and efficient.

The following the process established by the Emergency Response Team that will be implemented immediately. All information will be provided via the Check In Point and through digital distribution.

Phase 1: Limited Access

Time Frame: Tuesday March 24, 2020 (6:00 p.m. EST) to TBD

The following measures will be enforced during Phase 1:

Access to the Community

- ONLY those persons who are current residents within the reserve boundaries of Biigtigong.
- There will be absolutely NO visitors allowed.
- Emergency service providers (i.e. ambulance, fire, police).
- Home service providers (i.e. heat, hydro, plumber, electrician).
- Community essential workers (employees mandated to provide essential service).
- Everyone will be subject to the screening protocols and be required to comply with any recommended course of action.

Access to the Post Office

- Individuals and businesses situated off-reserve will continue to have access to their post-office boxes.
- Only 1 person will have access to the post-office; no other person is allowed in the vehicle.
- Individuals will not have access to any other part of the community.
- They will be subject to the protocols established by the management of Bud and Cando's Gas Bar.
- Access is limited to 1 trip per day.

Off-Reserve Biigtigong Member Access

- Biigtigong off-reserve members CANNOT enter the community for any purpose including visiting.
- Any Biigtigong member wanting to come home to stay must do so immediately. They must make arrangements to stay with family or friends. Biigtigong Nishnaabeg will not be responsible to provide housing.
- No Biigtigong member will be allowed to move to the community once Phase 3: Total Lockdown is declared.
- Members returning to the community will be subject to screening protocols and be required to follow the recommended course of action.

Access for Pukaskwa National Park employees

- Pukaskwa National Park will provide a list of employees requiring access the Park for work.
- These individuals will be subject to our screening protocols.
- They will not be allowed to enter the community; they will go directly to the park via Highway 627.

Access for Emergency Services

- Emergency service vehicles, such as, Ambulance, Fire, Policing will be allowed access.
- Home service providers, such as, plumbers, electricians and heat providers, will be allowed to access for emergency work only.
- These individuals will be subject to screening protocols and will be required to follow the recommended course of action.

Leaving the Community

- Biigtigong residents will be allowed to leave the community for the purpose of purchasing groceries and/or supplies.
- Only 1 person per household will be allowed to leave for the purpose of shopping. We encourage all children, elders and the other vulnerable individuals remain home.
- Residents are allowed to leave for urgent medical appointments.
- Residents are allowed to leave for the purpose of employment.
- These individuals will be subject to screening protocols and will be required to follow the recommended course of action.

Compliance and Conflict

- Failure to comply will result in the involvement of APS and/or the OPP.
- Any complaints shall be put in writing and forwarded to Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

Phase 2: Controlled Access

Estimated Time Frame: TBD

The following measures will be enforced during Phase 2:

- Same measures as in Phase 1 with the following change:
- Off-reserve employees will not have access to the community.

Phase 3: Total Lockdown

Time Frame: TBD

The following measures will be enforced during Phase 3:

- All Biigtigong Residents will not be permitted to leave the reserve; except for urgent medical appointments (for which special permission must be obtained from the Health Centre).
- Community-wide order to stay at home indoors.
- Alternative measures to facilitate the purchase and delivery of groceries will be made. Members will be responsible for the cost of their groceries. Detailed information will soon be distributed.
- Emergency and service vehicles will be allowed in and subject to screening protocols.