

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

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July 15, 2020

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On July 13, 2020, Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced that on Friday, July 17th, 12:01am, 24 public health regions in the province will be entering Stage 3 in the re-opening of businesses & services. Our health region, Algoma Public Health is one of the 24 on the list permitted to enter Stage 3 this week.

What that encompasses is:

New limits to allow up to 100 people outdoors and up to 50 people indoors (public gathering limits apply to indoor and outdoor events: ie; community events or gatherings, concerts, live shows, festivals, conferences, sports and recreational fitness activities, fundraisers, fairs, festivals or open houses) **A two metre distance must still be maintained at such events.**

The types of businesses/services permitted to re-open in Stage 3 include:

- Dine-in restaurants
- Bars
- Gyms/Fitness centres
- Casinos
- Most personal care services
- Live shows
- Performing arts/movie theatres
- Recreational facilities
- Team sports
- Live sporting events
- Tour and guide services
- Fitness centres

Even with some regions permitted to move into Stage 3, there are still some types of businesses/services NOT permitted to open due to the likelihood of large crowds congregating, difficulties with physical distancing, or challenges maintaining the proper cleaning and sanitation required to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Examples of types of businesses/services in regions of Stage 3, that are NOT permitted to open include:

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- Amusement parks and water parks
- Buffet-style food services
- Dancing at restaurants and bars, other than by performers hired by the establishment following specific requirements
- Overnight stays at camps for children
- Prolonged or deliberate contact while playing sports
- Saunas, steam rooms, bath houses and oxygen bars
- Table games at casinos and gaming establishments

With more businesses entering into the next stage of re-opening within the Algoma and Sudbury/Manitoulin districts, there is more emphasis on our community members to practice all the health and safety guidelines of lessening exposure and spreading of the virus.

We all have to remember that even though more and more businesses are re-opening province-wide, including our region of Algoma/Sudbury/Manitoulin, the virus is still out there.

Our community leadership, EOCG and administration have worked hard to help ensure our citizens have the information and personal protective equipment to help keep the virus away. We urge everyone to continue to take the precautions to keep ourselves, family and community Covid free.

A major component of this stage, as has been with Stage 2, is the continued monitoring of cases within all regions moving to Stage 3. Provincial health officials say this will help government make decisions on whether more loosening of restrictions can occur within Stage 3 regions or if more regions can also move into Stage 3. Monitoring will also determine if restrictions need to be tightened again.

The SRFN Organizational Reopening of the Community document was approved by Chief and Council last night and will soon be posted on the SRFN Website. A copy will also go out in the mail. As a community, we will remain in Stage 2 of 5 until the end of July. We are remaining consistent as we have throughout the pandemic and will follow a couple of weeks behind the province. Our Emergency Operations Control Group team leads will continue to monitor our current status within our district and make recommendations to our leadership if adjustments need to be made with current restrictions.

If you have any questions regarding the Reopening Plans please contact the Kenabutch Health Center, 705-844-2152.

Miigwetch
Leila Macumber, Incident Commander

Chief Brent Bissaillon

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