

## 1.0 Overview

With the COVID-19 pandemic evolving and more variants emerging, it is important to prepare in order to manage COVID-19 for the long-term. Adaptation is required so we can ensure that critical services continue, and we can move forward and coexist with the virus.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected our community's and individuals' mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical wellbeing. This Plan will outline safe and appropriate steps to keep our mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical wellbeing as a priority while easing restrictions.

The plan has been informed by the following:

- The community-wide vaccination rate
- Active cases and/or an outbreak is declared in Wiikwemkoong
- Active cases within the Public Health Sudbury & Districts area, including rate of transmission and cluster cases
- Improvements in key public health and health care indicators throughout the province
- Continuation of critical services, specifically services and programming pertaining to community and individual mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical wellbeing
- Adaptation to allow coexisting between the COVID-19 situation and Wiikwemkoong

### **Key Public Health and Health Care Indicators:**

- Active cases and/or an outbreak is declared in Wiikwemkoong
- Active cases within the Public Health Sudbury & Districts area, including rate of transmission and cluster cases
- The province's ongoing assessment with the following:
  - The identification of any new COVID-19 variants,
  - Increases in hospitalizations and ICU occupancy and
  - Rapid increases in transmission
- Ontario's Re-Opening Plan

Monitoring the COVID-19 situation is essential for its management. This includes monitoring trends in indicators, especially during winter and summer holidays, and when students return to school at various times throughout the year.

### **Key Principles:**

- Ongoing monitoring and increased vaccination rates
- Ongoing testing (including Rapid Antigen Testing completed at home)
- Plans and policies in place to manage outbreaks
- Easing public health measures in a safe manner
- Minimize disruption to individuals, the community, and businesses
- Overall community wellness

**Reminder: If you are travelling out of the [Robinson Huron Treaty Territory](#), please call Naandwechige-Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre to receive guidance from the COVID-19 Nurse once you return.**

This is a living document that may undergo changes and revisions when determined necessary.

## **1.1 Vaccination Efforts**

The COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 and its variants. WUT's goal is to achieve 'herd immunity' with the ultimate intention of 100% vaccination rate against COVID-19. 'Herd immunity' is achieved when at least 75% of eligible Wiikwemkoong community members (over the age of five (5) years old) are fully vaccinated.

At this time, the COVID-19 vaccines are approved and available for eligible individuals per provincial guidance. We encourage all community members to get the COVID-19 vaccine and to continue to practice public health guidelines. This is to keep all community members safe from COVID-19.

**Note:** *Due to the vaccinations available for individuals over the age of five (5) years old, it has been decided to include all those eligible for the vaccine in our definition of 'herd immunity', which is our overall vaccination rate.*

## **1.2 Easing Restrictions**

As we coexist with COVID-19, easing of restrictions will occur based on the community's outbreak status, active cases, and vaccination rate of the community.

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Depending on the status of COVID-19 in Wiikwemkoong, the Steps will determine which public health measures are to be lifted. This may include participating in community wellness programming, enjoying more physical activity with larger groups, decreasing capacity restrictions within public spaces, and participating in ceremony and traditional gatherings.

### 1.3 Moving Through the Steps

In efforts to move forward and adapt to the current situation, these steps are determined based on outbreak status, active cases, and vaccination rate of the community. If trends in key public health and health system indicators are positive, community vaccination rates continue to rise, and active cases go down the community will move to the next Step 48 hours after the following thresholds have been met.

- **Step 1:** Outbreak Declared by Council
  - **Section A:** Outbreak declared with 16 or more active cases
  - **Section B:** Outbreak declared with 1 to 15 active cases
- **Step 2:** Vaccination rate is under 75% and no outbreak has been declared
- **Step 3:** Vaccination rate has reached 75% or more and no outbreak has been declared
- **Step 4:** Ogimaa and Council Declares the COVID-19 Pandemic Over

**Note:** *The back-to-school plan will not be outlined in this document, as other data and information aligned with our Children's Bill of Rights and our children's learning needs, mental health and wellbeing will be considered when making these decisions.*

**Note:** *Capacity limit signs for Wiikwemkoong buildings will be developed.*

### 1.4 Proof of Vaccination Requirements

Proof of vaccination from **all participants/facilitators/contractors who are five (5) years of age and older attending in-person community events and programming is required.**

This is to ensure community members, WUT employees, and others in attendance have the highest level of protection against the COVID-19 virus thus lessening the impact of COVID-19 within the community. *Please note that currently, only Moderna Spikevax,*

*Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty, AstraZeneca Vaxzevria and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) are the only acceptable types of vaccines that are recognized in Canada.*

### **When is proof of vaccination required?**

Proof of vaccination is required for **all in-person** activities/programming, events, and services.

**Note:** *An alternative option may be available for participants who are not fully vaccinated through medical exemption.*

Proof of vaccination is not required for any virtual programming, activities, and events.

For more information about the requirement of proof of vaccination, and exemptions please refer to [Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory's COVID-19 Community Programming and Events Guide](#).

### **When you do not need to show proof of vaccination:**

- Essential services i.e., groceries stores, pharmacy, medical appointments, social services
- If you are under five (5) years old
- Entering a business temporarily to:
  - Use the washroom
  - Access an outdoor area with indoor accessibility
  - Make a retail purchase
  - Place, pick-up or pay for an order
- Entering the business for health and safety purposes
- Virtual programming/events

## **2.0 Guiding Principles**

### **2.1: Step 1 Outbreak Declared in Wiikwemkoong**

#### **COVID-19 Outbreak Definition:**

According to Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory Outbreak Management Plan, a COVID-19 outbreak in Wiikwemkoong is defined as two (2) or more clusters of positive COVID-19 cases. A cluster is described as two (2) or more positive COVID-19 cases associated with the same location, group, or event around the same time.

#### **Outbreak Details**

If an outbreak is declared by Council, Wiikwemkoong will revert to Step 1 of the Easing of Restrictions Plan and follow any additional guidance from leadership that may not be included in this Plan. This is to ensure the safety of the community, reduce the risk of exposure and transmission of the virus within the community, while maintaining continual critical services and programming for the community's overall wellbeing.

Step 1 of this Plan is divided into two (2) sections, Section A and Section B, which are determined based on the daily active case count.

#### **Section A (16 or more active cases in Wiikwemkoong):**

- Community members are strongly encouraged to stay home, to stay within your household bubble, and only leave for essential purposes. This includes designating one person per household to do the essential shopping.
- We encourage household bubbles to participate in outdoor activities ensuring you are not interacting with another household (i.e., Swimming at the beach, going for a walk, snowshoeing). Please follow all public health guidelines including physical distancing.
- Splash pad and playgrounds are open to the public.
- Social gatherings are prohibited. Community members are strongly encouraged to refrain from any gatherings.

- All community programming and events will be cancelled or postponed unless you can host virtually. We strongly encourage virtual programming for community wellness.
- All businesses and organizations within WUT to implement their outbreak management plan and continue with the health and safety precautions.
- In-person meetings are prohibited.
- Indoor religious/spiritual services, including wakes, funerals, rites, and ceremonies with limited capacity. For traditional ceremonies, a Safety Plan must be submitted and be granted approval from the Pandemic Response Team.
  - Outdoor (including traditional ceremonies): 10 people maximum capacity
  - Indoor: 5 people maximum capacity
  - Follow all public health guidelines
- All retail at 15% capacity.
- All indoor recreational facilities are not open to the public, with an exception to the Active Living Studio (fitness centre).
  - Allowing one person at a time to use the facility while following additional public health measures.
- All outdoor recreational facilities/spaces are open to the public, ensuring you are staying with your household bubble and following public health guidelines. (I.e., Thunderbird Park outdoor skating rink, basketball courts)
- Community members who do not reside here are strongly encouraged to not come home until the outbreak is declared over.
- Tourists and non-community members strongly encouraged to refrain from travel into the community (does not include WUT employees).

## **Section B (1 to 15 active cases within Wiikwemkoong):**

- Community members are strongly encouraged to stay home, to stay within your household bubble, and only leave for essential purposes. This includes designating one person per household to do the essential shopping.
- We encourage household bubbles to participate in outdoor activities ensuring you are not interacting with another household (i.e., Swimming at the beach, going for a walk, snowshoeing). Please follow all public health guidelines including physical distancing.
- Splash pad and playgrounds are open to the public.
- Social gatherings continue to be prohibited; however, some exceptions may be granted to organized community wellness programming. You must submit a Safety Plan and be granted approval from the Pandemic Response Team.
  - Approved in-person community wellness programming
    - Indoor: 5 people maximum capacity (includes facilitator(s))
    - Outdoor: 10 people maximum capacity
- The continuation of virtual programming and events is advised.
- All businesses and organizations within WUT to implement their outbreak management plan and continue with the health and safety precautions.
- In-person meetings are prohibited.
- Indoor religious/spiritual services, rites, and ceremonies with limited capacity. For traditional ceremonies, a Safety Plan must be submitted and be granted approval from the Pandemic Response Team.
  - Outdoor (including traditional ceremonies): 10 people maximum capacity
  - Indoor (including traditional ceremonies): 5 people maximum capacity
  - Follow all public health guidelines
- All retail at 15% capacity.
- All indoor recreational facilities are not open to the public; however, some exceptions may be granted to organized community wellness programming. You

must submit a Safety Plan and be granted approval from the Pandemic Response Team.

- Approved in-person community wellness programming
  - Indoor: 5 people maximum capacity (includes facilitator(s))
  - Outdoor: 10 people maximum capacity
- The Active Living Studio (fitness centre) continues to remain open, allowing one person at a time to use the facility while following additional public health measures.
- All outdoor recreational facilities/spaces are open to the public, ensuring you are staying with your household bubble and following public health guidelines.
- Community members who do not reside here are strongly encouraged to not come home until the outbreak is declared over.
- Tourists and non-community members strongly encouraged to refrain from travel into the community (does not include WUT employees).

### **End of Outbreak:**

The outbreak's end date will be determined based on the recommendation by Naandwechige-Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre's Community Health Nurses, and after 14 days of the last positive case during the outbreak. The outbreak will be declared over by Ogimaa and Council.

When an outbreak is declared over, the community will resume to the Step we were previously at, prior to the outbreak. (I.e. If the community reached Step 3 prior to the declared outbreak, Wiikwemkoong would resume at Step 3.)

Please remember that public health guidelines (wearing masks, maintaining 6-feet from others, frequent hand washing or sanitizing, contact tracing etc.) must continue to be followed.



## **2.2: Step 2 Vaccination rate is under 75% and no outbreak has been declared**

Step 2 of the Easing of Restrictions Plan occurs when the vaccination rate of eligible Wiikwemkoong community members is under 75% and no outbreak has been declared. In this Step, it expands outdoor activities and decreases capacity limits while still following public health guidelines.

For all programming, events, and activities, a Safety Plan must be presented to the Pandemic Response Team to demonstrate how they can deliver the activities in a safe manner and be granted approval.

This includes:

- All public buildings will be 50% capacity and/or up to 25 people maximum. (Please check to see what the capacity limits are in the spaces you wish to use).
- Outdoor gatherings of up to 100 people (non-sporting event), including outdoor meeting and event spaces, and outdoor tour and guide services.
- Outdoor sports and leagues (no restrictions on number of participants; participant's household bubble may attend, subjected to space).
- Indoor sports and recreational facilities at 50% capacity.
- Overnight camps with safety precautions in place.
- Indoor dining up to 50% capacity. Six people maximum per table. Families larger than 6 allowed to dine together if in same household bubble.
- Outdoor dining up to 50% capacity. There is no limit on patrons per table. Must maintain 6 feet distance between parties.
- Retail at 50% capacity.
- Indoor religious/spiritual services, rites, or ceremonies at 50% capacity.
- Outdoor religious/spiritual services, rites, or ceremonies will have up to 100 people maximum.
- Public libraries at 50% capacity.
- Travel safely: To ensure the safety and well-being of the community, it is strongly recommended that safety precautions are adhered to when travelling. If you are travelling outside of the [Robinson Huron Treaty Territory](#):

- Fully vaccinated individuals will be required self monitor and call the Health Centre to book a Covid-19 test 7 days upon arriving back to community.
- Non-vaccinated individuals will be required to contact Naandwechige-Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre for assessment upon return, to self-isolate for 10 days upon return, and to get tested on day 7.
- Tourism is open to non-community members.
  - ⊖ Visitors are encouraged to review Wiikwemkoong Tourism's COVID-19 Visitor Guide: <https://wikytours.com/daily-cultural-experiences/>

Please remember that public health guidelines (wearing masks, maintaining 6-feet, frequent hand washing or sanitizing, etc.) must continue to be followed.

**If there is an outbreak declared in Wiikwemkoong, we will revert to Step 1: Outbreak, and follow all the protocols in Step 1.**

## **2.3: Step 3 Vaccination rate has reached 75% or more and an outbreak has not been declared**

Step 3 of the Easing of Restrictions Plan occurs when the vaccination rate of eligible Wiikwemkoong community members is 75% or more, and an outbreak has not been declared. While still following public health guidelines, all indoor and outdoor activities, including public buildings, the capacity limit will be 75% (please check to see what the capacity limits are in the spaces you wish to use).

For all programming, events, and activities, a Safety Plan must be presented to the Pandemic Response Team to demonstrate how they can deliver the activities in a safe manner and be granted approval.

This includes:

- 75% capacity:
  - Indoor gatherings and outdoor gatherings (non-sporting event), including outdoor meeting and event spaces, and outdoor tour and guide services.
  - Outdoor sports and leagues (no restrictions on participants).
  - Indoor sports and recreational facilities
  - Indoor and Outdoor dining
  - Retail
  - Indoor and outdoor religious/spiritual services, rites, or ceremonies
- Travel safely: To ensure the safety and well-being of the community, it is strongly recommended that safety precautions are adhered to when travelling. If you are travelling outside of the [Robinson Huron Treaty Territory](#):
  - Fully vaccinated individuals will be required self monitor and call the Health Centre to book a Covid-19 test 7 days upon arriving back to community.
  - Non-vaccinated individuals will be required to contact Naandwechige-Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre for assessment upon return, to self-isolate for 10 days upon return, and to get tested on day 7.
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Please remember that public health guidelines (wearing masks, maintaining 6-feet, frequent hand washing or sanitizing, etc.) must continue to be followed.

**If there is an outbreak declared in Wiikwemkoong, we will revert to Step 1: Outbreak, and follow all the protocols in Step 1.**

## **2.4: Step 4 Ogimaa and Council Declares the COVID-19 Pandemic Over**

Step 5 of the Easing of Restrictions Plan occurs when Ogimaa and Council declares the COVID-19 Pandemic over based on the guidance and recommendations of Naandwechige-Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre, Public Health, and Indigenous Services Canada.

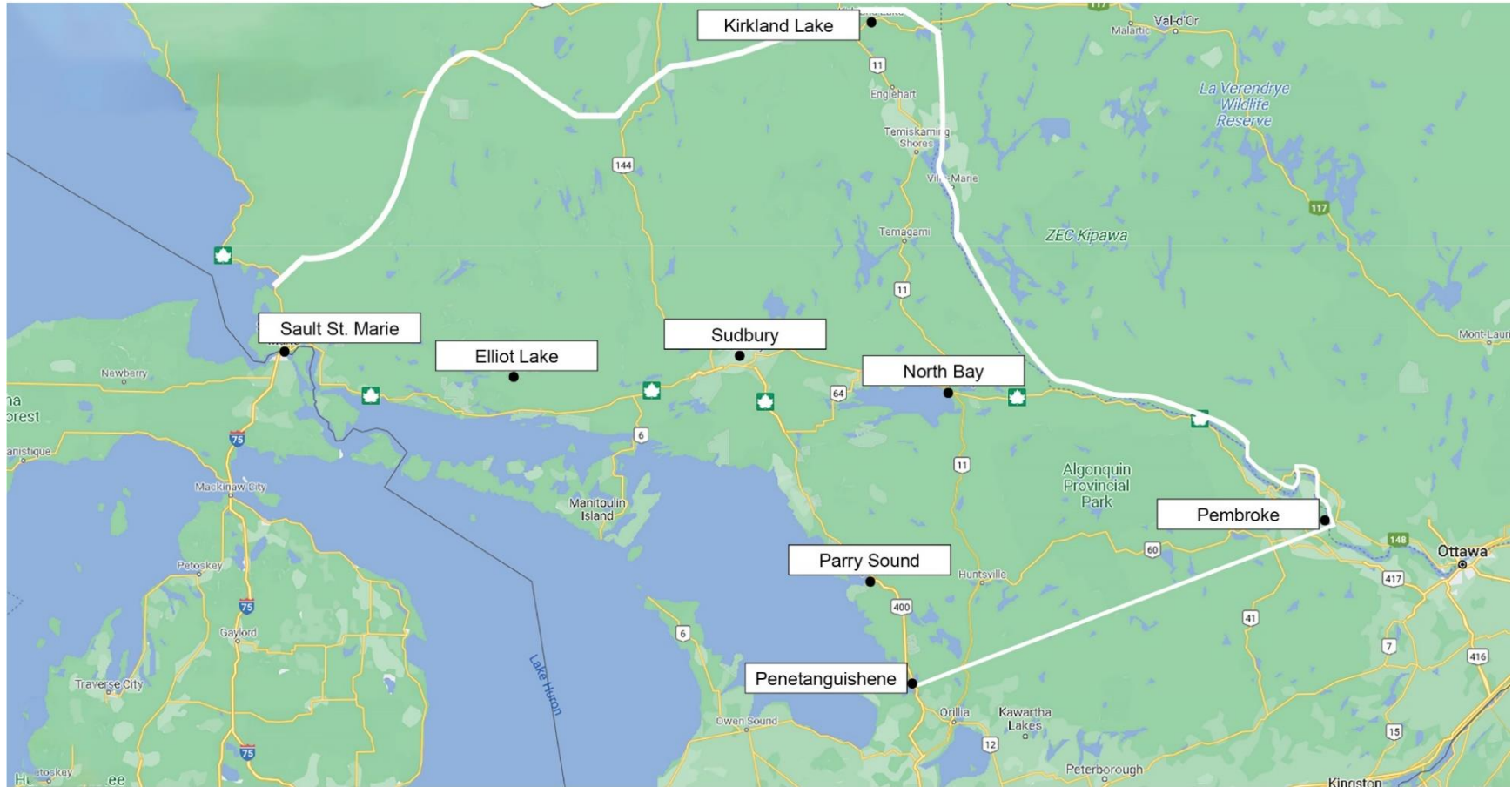
Step 4 includes:

- All public health measures that are outlined at this time are to be followed.
- All occupational and health and safety standards are to be continued.

## Appendix A: Robinson Huron Treaty Territory

### Robinson Huron Treaty Territory

North of Sault Ste. Marie; south of Chapleau; up to Kirkland Lake;  
west of the Ottawa River, up to Pembroke; and south to Penetanguishene.



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