Border Crossing During COVID-19: A Guidance Document

Travel between Canada and the United States has been restricted since March 21, 2020, to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of June 8, 2020, Six Nations community members who have family in the U.S are allowed to travel into U.S to visit immediate family members.

This guideline is specifically for community members of Six Nations who have immediate family members in U.S. Travel from Canada to the U.S. is NOT encouraged at this time.

Those who wish to travel to Canada for other non-essential reasons, such as cross-boarder shopping, vacation, or to visit friends, CANNOT do so at this time.

Who can cross the border into Canada?

Six Nations community members who live in the U.S. and have immediate family members living in Canada will be allowed to enter Canada. You must stay in Canada for a minimum period of 15 days. Anyone entering Canada cannot have COVID-19 or exhibit any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If there is any reason to believe you have COVID-19 you will not be allowed to enter Canada.
Who are family members?

An immediate family member refers to a person’s:

- spouse or common-law partner;
- dependent child, or the dependent child of the person’s spouse or common-law partner;
- parent or step-parent or the parent or step-parent of the person’s spouse or common-law partner.

Do I have to go into self-isolation when entering Canada?

- When entering Canada you must go into self-isolation for 14 days, even if you do not have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Any travel to the U.S. from Canada will also require you to self-isolate for 14 days upon return.
- Please make arrangements for a place to quarantine prior to entering Canada.
- You will need to confirm that you have a suitable place to quarantine for 14 days where you will have access to basic necessities (such as food and medication) and not have contact with vulnerable people, such as adults aged 65 years or over and people with pre-existing medical conditions.
- You must also call Ohsweken Public Health at 519-445-2672 OR the Six Nations Information & Assessment Centre at 1-855-977-7737 OR 226-446-9909 when entering Canada.
- If you do not have a suitable place to quarantine for 14 days, call Ohsweken Public Health OR the COVID-19 Assessment Centre to make arrangements prior to entering Canada.
If you are arriving from the U.S., you can enter Canada if you meet the following criteria:

- The ability to demonstrate that the purpose of your trip is non-optional.
- Trip to Canada is at least 15 days long.
- The ability to demonstrate that you will self-isolate for 14 days when entering Canada.
- You do not have COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19.

Examples of non-optional trips

- To take up full-time residence in Canada.
- To care for an ill family member or a family member who is unable to care for themselves; when no other arrangements can be made.
- Shared custody agreement across borders, as this would be complying with a court order.
- Tending to family matters for non-optional purposes (such as bringing supplies to elderly parents) when there is no one else available in Canada to assist.
- Health (immediate medical care), safety and security.
- If you are coming for the birth of your own child.
- Critical infrastructure support.
**Documentation to bring when crossing the border**

Documentation showing that you are a community member of Six Nations (e.g., Haudenosaunee passport, status card, birth certificate for a child age 15 or younger).

Documentation showing your relationship to the immediate family member (e.g., marriage certificate or proof of common law status, birth certificate, etc).

**Additional things to know before crossing the border**

As of March 31, 2020, anyone arriving in Canada must provide their contact information to a border services officer when seeking entry.

This information is collected on behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada to support their compliance and enforcement of the Quarantine Act (i.e. 14-day quarantine or isolation requirement).

You will also have to call Ohsweken Public Health at 519-445-2672 OR the Six Nations Information & Assessment Centre at 1-855-977-7737 OR 226-446-9909 upon entry into Canada.

**Location of border crossings**

Ontario has 14 road border crossings, one truck ferry, and four passenger ferries with the United States. The province's international crossings in Windsor, Sarnia and Fort Erie/Niagara Falls are the busiest in Canada based on the volume of goods and number of trucks crossing the border.

Ontario Border Crossing Bridges
- Cornwall
- Fort Erie: The Peace Bridge
- Fort Frances
- Niagara
- Pigeon River
- Prescott
- Rainy River Crossing
- Sarnia: Blue Water Bridge
- Sault Saint Marie: International Bridge
- Thousand Islands Bridge
- Windsor-Detroit Gateway
- Passenger Ferries

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