

STORMER LAKE LODGE BORDER CROSSING DETAILS

Hello Stormer Guests,

The time is getting closer for you all to make your trek to Stormer and start yanking fish. We have stated it before but we are as excited for you to be at Stormer as you all are. The camp needs some "fishing story buzz" to bring it back to life.

This email is another update or information on all things related to your trip to Stormer Lake Lodge. It is another lengthy email but please READ THIS EMAIL IN ITS ENTIRETY so you understand the procedures for getting across the border and what we are doing at the lodge for our guests.

We know there has been a lot of confusion on all aspects regarding the border since Canada announced the border will open on August 9. We are trying our best to stay up to speed regarding any changes to procedures and pass them along to you.

The good news is that the border will open tonight at midnight and we should start to hear about any issues or changes that are taking place with travelers. We also have a few tourism organisations that keep us up to speed on any issues in addition to belonging to a few Business Owner Facebook groups that post information on a regular basis.

You might notice that we are Copy & Pasting some of the information in this email from the prior email we sent out. You will notice that any new text or information is in red color text.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CROSSING THE BORDER

1. Any US citizen over the age of 11 must be FULLY vaccinated by an approved vaccine. Please have your vaccination card with you from the location where you got your shots.

- Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty, tozinameran, BNT162b2)
- Moderna (mRNA-1273)
- AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (ChAdOx1-S, Vaxzevria, AZD1222)
- Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (Ad26.COV2.S)

2. The second shot of vaccine (or one-Shot J&J) must have been received no earlier than 14 days prior to arrival at the border.

3. A pre-approved COVID test must be done no later than 72 hours from arrival to the border. This test must be a Molecular type. There are many available Covid test available but the simplest location and test are the ID NOW test from Walgreens and a similar test from CVS (not sure on name at CVS). Both tests are FREE and are performed by you as you go through the drive through window. You must pre-register for these tests on Walgreens or CVS's websites. The results are returned to you within 24 hours to your email address.

Linda and I took the Walgreens ID NOW test prior to our border crossing and the results came into our email address box in less than 2 hours. **Please plan your travel plans accordingly to allow to get to the border before the 72-hour deadline. Many of you have been asking about the Walgreens ID Now test and whether this is an approved Covid test. The answer is YES. We have had many people that have posted on Facebook groups that have crossed the border with the Walgreens ID Now test and the border agents are stating this test is approved. Even though the Canada.ca website may state that a rapid test is not approved, the Walgreens**

(and CVS) ID NOW test is approved. Results have been returned to the patient in usually 2-8 hours from when you took the test. Some have been slightly longer but none over 24 hours that we have heard of. We also have been hearing that supplies of these tests might be in shorter supply in some higher populated cities so call your local Walgreens and verify supply. Also, as stated above, this test must be done no later than 72 hours from arriving at the border. Plan your trip carefully in case of delays of sitting in lines at the border. The agent does not care how long you have sat in line. 72 hours is 72 hours from when you took the test in the customs agent's decision. Now, we know there is no way to determine how long you could sit in the border crossing line but we have been reading from people who have taken the test that results are 99% returned within 24 hours of when you took the test. SO, as an example, if you plan to cross the border at 8am on a Friday, then you should think about taking the Walgreens COVID test sometime on Wednesday or so. You could possibly take it on Thursday and start your drive to the border and trust the results will be back by Friday 8am. (This is an example but plan accordingly for your COVID Test for the border)

4. You must download and REGISTER and then fill out the information on the ArriveCAN App form no more than 3 days prior to arriving at the border. In other words, the App will not allow you to submit the form more than 3 days before your arrival. The ArriveCAN App will only take about 3-5 minutes to complete and will ask obvious questions such as Name, Address, Passport Number, Covid Vaccine Type, etc.

We downloaded the App on our Android Phones via the APPSTORE with no problem. You can also use your laptop computer to register in the ArriveCan App.

We are sure it is in the Apple App's store also. We have included a link below from the Canada.ca website. This ArriveCAN app is not an approval for your border crossing but more of an informational input tool for the border agents. They will be able to see that you filled out the form prior to arrival. Once submitted, you should receive a response in our email mailbox stating you have filled out the form.

One section of the ARRIVECAN App will ask about your QUARANTINE PLAN while at the lodge. Here are some of the questions and answers as best as we know them.

1. Do you have a place to isolate for 14 days if you start to have symptoms for Covid (or if you were randomly selected for a Covid test at the border). Your answer is **YES**. (We will have either a cabin or a fully equipped large camper for anyone that starts to have symptoms. Don't panic about the 14 days. You also have a choice to go home immediately; it just does not state it in the App.

2. Will you have enough or access to Water, Heat, Medicine, etc while in quarantine. The answer is **YES**. We will supply all of this for you. No worries.

3. What best describes the place of quarantine: You select **HOUSE or CABIN** option.

4. Are you planning on sharing the place with anyone: Your answer is **NO, I will be alone**. This is to prove to them that you will be isolating.

5. In addition to the Quarantine questions in the ARRIVECAN App, the border agent might ask you about your quarantine plan while at the lodge if you start to have symptoms or a positive test result comes back from being randomly selected for a test at the border. We have written a Quarantine Plan Letter and attached it to this email. Please print it out and carry it with you to the border. If you cannot print it off and you have a smartphone, you could just open our letter and show the agent.

As stated in the previous email, once at the border crossing, they are doing a random selection of travelers to do a Covid test. For what we know at the moment, if you are selected, they will administer the test immediately at the border but then send you on your way to your final destination, Stormer Lake Lodge, to await results. You do not have to quarantine waiting for the results. You can go fishing in other words. If the test comes back Positive, (we think it will be sent to your email address but still checking on this detail), you will have a choice of staying at Stormer in an isolation dwelling for 10-14 days (we are utilizing a full pull behind camper with all amenities for this purpose) or you will be allowed to go home. We assume that the chances of your test coming back positive are miniscule and we would also assume that if the test came back Positive, you and your group would most likely go home as opposed to quarantining in a camper for 10-14 days. We are still not 100% sure on all the details of this random test yet at the border. We are supposed to get more information about how this will be done from our tourism associations hopefully tomorrow. We also should get some feedback from travelers after the border opens tonight. We will keep you informed about this issue.

6. Many of you have emailed or called with questions about the supposed closure of the US side of the border until Aug 21. This closure that Biden has left in place until Aug 21 only pertains to Foreign Nationals trying to cross from Canada into the US and Foreign Nationals trying to cross from Mexico into the US. **Any US citizen in Canada will always be allowed to come back to the US unless there are legal/criminal issues.** In other words, you are just fine to come into Canada after Aug 9 (when Canada land border opens) and travel back via land border to the US anytime. **This has not changed and does not concern anyone of our guests coming to Stormer Lake Lodge or returning home. You will be able to cross back into the States with no problems.**

7. **When we sent out the previous email, the border agents were just about to start a labor strike on Aug 6. As you may know by now, the agents and the Canadian government have agreed to a tentative settlement and the border should be relatively normal in regards to agents approach to travelers. And, they have stated there will be no additional slow downs based on labor issues. This does not mean there still may not be slow downs caused by all of the COVID procedures, etc.** Just as we are writing this information, the CBSA (Canada Border Services Agency) union has decided to strike in the near future. The tentative date is Aug 6, 2021. The Trudeau government has promised (and I believe it is by law) that the land borders will be manned accordingly. However, it is our belief that there could be slow downs at the border. There is no way to know at this time what the logistics will be but we are planning full steam ahead with our opening and have all of our scheduled guests here to catch tons of fish. We will keep you posted on any developments.

8. **You will still need to bring your Passport for ID purposes.**

NEW & NORMAL BORDER CROSSING LOGISTICS

1. NO BAIT OF ANY KIND IS ALLOWED TO COME INTO CANADA. Normally, a person is allowed to bring nightcrawlers in manmade bedding but that is not allowed anymore. They are not allowing salted minnows either. Synthetic packages baits like Gulp, etc. are allowed. **This has not changed. We will have leeches, nightcrawlers and frozen minnows at the lodge for sale. As you can imagine, prices of bait have gone up based on low supply. The bait dealers were just as surprised as we all were when they opened up the border for Aug 9. This meant that they did not have normal supplies of bait in stock. We are lucky to have acquired what we hope is enough for our guests.**

We will have leeches, nightcrawlers and possibly minnows for sale at the lodge. We are only going to sell bait with marginal markup to help cover our costs. Please email ahead of time to check on our bait supply before stopping somewhere in Canada to buy bait. We also do not have the room to hold your bait in our refrigerators. Thank you ahead of time for the economic assistance by buying onsite.

2. Masks are required in Canada at almost any location you may stop, especially at the border crossing. Most types of masks are acceptable.

3. We do not know how long the lines will be at the border. We suspect that the first few days will be busy and possibly the first Saturday Aug 14 will be also. Be patient. See number 3d under LODGE LOGISTICS below for more information.

4. All of the same logistics apply in regards to food, and personal items coming into Canada. You are allowed enough estimated food for your length of trip while in Canada. We use the word estimated because it is the border agent's discretion. They usually do not have issues with average quantities. Bringing alcohol into Canada is the same. One liter of alcohol or 1 case of beer is allowed Duty Free. Additional alcohol is subject to Duty Tax.

5. Make sure you have your Passport. If for some reason, you have lost your Passport or do not have it at the last minute of your trip, call the Canada Border Crossing and the US Border Crossing and ask about your options. We understand that a driver's license and a birth certificate might work on a last-minute basis but we cannot confirm this.

TRAVEL/DRIVING LOGISTICS

1. If you are planning on stopping overnight for lodging in Canada prior to your arrival to Stormer Lake Lodge, make sure you call ahead to make reservations. We are hearing about hotels being quite full now that the border is opening soon. **This has not changed. Call ahead for reservations if you are planning to stay in Canada prior to your arrival to Stormer.**

2. The last 41.5 miles to Stormer Lake Lodge is traveling on Nungesser Rd. The first 20 miles of Nungesser Rd used to be blacktop and the last 21.5 miles was gravel. However, they have taken out approx. 12-15 miles of the blacktop and have made it gravel. So, most of Nungesser is now a gravel road. They are grading it often so it is in good condition.
3. Please be careful driving on Nungesser Rd. There is construction going on to our North with new roads being cut and electrical lines being installed so large equipment trucks are more present.

LODGE LOGISTICS

1. Please remember to bring your own personal wearable floatation device. This has been a policy at Stormer for many years so most of you should remember this.
2. Canada Health Policies as they relate to Covid 19 will be in place at Stormer.
 - a. Masks will be required in the lodge at all times unless you are seated for dining purposes. Social distancing is also required which means keeping a distance of 2 meters (6 ft) between other guests.
 - b. Meals in the lodge will be similar as in the past. We are allowed to have complete meals in the lodge but will be spacing tables out to accommodate a social distancing requirement. We hope and believe it will feel "normal" so everyone can enjoy the social aspect and brag about the catches of the day as normal. Lol.
 - c. We hope to have a similar menu as in the past. Linda is currently working with food vendors to verify that all food items are in the supply chain. We hope that if there is a change in a menu item from previous years that it will be either better than before or comparable. Please remember that a lot of businesses will be opening at the same time as Stormer so there could be more pressure on the system.
 - d. We will be having fish shore lunches. However, we are reviewing the option of having them at the normal location on Kirkness or back at the lodge. The water level of our lakes is considerably lower than what we would like. This means that our boat ramps at the shore lunch spot are completely out of water. We will be reviewing our plans in the next week or so for shore lunches. **We have taken a closer look at our shore lunch log ramps and with the low water levels, and some damage from ice, most of the ramps will be difficult to get a boat on. However, we still plan to have shore lunches at the site on Kirkness lake but we may have to be creative about anchoring boats just offshore and ferrying guests to shore. For now, we plan to have shore lunch on Sundays and Tuesdays and will reassess about whether Thursday will be just a sack lunch. We know how important shore lunches are to all of our guests but the logistics might make it difficult for all concerned. We will always try our best in these regards.**
 - e. We will be placing signs for the lodge stating "Masks Required" and "Social Distancing Required" based on Canada Covid Health Policies. We are stating this so everyone will bring their own masks from home. We will have masks available but we do not want to run the risk of running out.
 - f. We also will have sanitizer dispensers available as you enter the lodge. You are more than welcome to bring sanitizer with you from home. We will not be selling sanitizer on site.
 - g. There will be a few **slight changes to procedures** for your cabin amenities such as towels, blankets and pillows. We will still be supplying everything you need but for towels and bedding but the procedure for acquiring additional items or change-over of towels will be slightly different than in the past. We will go over these procedures when you arrive at the lodge. It is based on Covid policies from Canada Health. **We did not word this paragraph very well in the previous email. WE WILL SUPPLY ALL OF YOUR TOWELS AND BEDDING JUST LIKE IN THE PAST. We will discuss all of these issues when you arrive to the lodge.**
3. The good news about our cabins and the lodge is that we have installed new light fixtures in all cabins and also new outdoor themed light fixtures about all tables in the lodge. We think they look great and the brighter light should be helpful.
 - a. We also installed new showers in quite a few cabin bathrooms and also new vanities and plank flooring in a couple of cabins.
 - b. We also started painting the interior of a couple of our cabins but have run out of time to expand that regiment. Hopefully in the future we can continue.

c. **Please make sure you purchase your Outdoor Card and Fishing License before you arrive at the lodge. We do not sell Outdoor Cards or fishing licenses at the lodge. You can purchase online via the link from our website homepage.**

d. Many of you have probably been following the large forest fires in our area of Red Lake. As of July 28, fires RED 16 & RED 77 which are closest to the town of Red Lake, are being managed to where the risk of evacuation is low at this point. The winds and slight rain we are getting are a big help and all of the cutting of fire breaks in key locations are also minimizing risk. There has been very slight notice of smoke in the air on some days but very minimal. Many days are clear based on wind direction. We will keep you posted on any developments. **POSITIVE NEWS. The latest MNRF reports are all positive in regards to the area forest fires. We have had some good rain days now and the winds have been favorable for most fires. The level of smoke in the air here at the lodge is minimal or non-existent. We have had no health issues regarding smoke amongst our staff or Linda and myself.**

4. Linda wanted me to mention that she is having a BLOW OUT sale on clothing items in our lodge store. We did not get a chance to sell the items last year so she wants to catch up for lost time. Here is your chance to promote Stormer Lake Lodge back home.

We hope the above detailed information is helpful for your upcoming trip to Stormer.

We want to emphasize that the items listed above for your pre-arrival to the border are very critical to getting across the border. They are not difficult items to accomplish and we will do everything to assist you but they do need to be completed.

We greatly appreciate all of your support while we have been shut down because of Covid (and the government). We are very excited to have guests arrive here soon at Stormer and cannot wait to hear all of the new fish stories being told.

Please email with any and all questions you may have. We are here to make sure all the details for your trip are complete. We are confident there will be more news regarding the border or about Stormer prior to guests arriving. We will continue to send out information as necessary.

We will be sending the Quarantine letter as we stated above to each of the group leaders within the next few days. We will ask that you distribute a copy to each member of your group.

We still have a couple of cabins available the week of Aug 14-20 (we know this is short notice) and one 2 person cabin open the week of Aug 21-27.

We are also have a couple of groups that have stated they are interested in coming up the week of Sept 11-17. However, we would need to fill a few more cabins to make this economically viable for us to stay open for an extra week. Please email us no later than Friday August 20 if you want to book a cabin for the Sept 11-17 week. This will allow all parties to plan their trip accordingly.

Ok, one last final note: You may remember our pet fox we have had here for the past 6 years at Stormer. First there was Stormie, then Sly, and then Shy showed up. Well, this year is no exception. Stormie and Sly are not here but we still have 3 characters coming around. Shy, who has been here going on 4 years now is back, and we believe the other two are her pups. Shy is as friendly as ever coming right in and taking food from our hands as normal. After she eats, she lies down and takes a nap right in front of us as if to tell us she is full, happy and comfortable. Or, she is just too tired to go back to the den and listen to all the chatter from her pups. We also think she likes to hear grown-up talk from Linda and I instead of the whining talk from the other two pups. Lol. We have named one of the two pups "Tipper" because she has a very bright white tip on the end of her tail. We have not named the other pup so maybe we can have a contest or naming game for the other pup when guests are here. Tipper is also the most mischievous of the two pups. If we are not outside to feed her right away, she comes up on our house deck and looks in the sliding glass door to see where we are. When she sees us, she paws at the glass as if to tell us "Hey, I am hungry. Get your butts out here to feed me". The interesting part is that we purchased a large package of hot dogs from back home to bring up for Shy but now that there are 3 mouths to feed, the hot dogs are going fast. What a great life it is here at Stormer Lake Lodge. **Or 3 foxes are still here and getting quite friendly. We love having them here.**

We want to state again that all of the red colored text is the new information since our last email. ALL of the information in this email is still viable and tremendously important.

And also to reiterate, we have attached a Quarantine Letter for you to print out and bring with you to the border in case they ask if you have a quarantine plan.

Please email with any questions you may have.

See you soon.