HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT June 1, 2020



IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Timiskaming Health Unit:

> Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

New Liskeard

Tel:	(705) 647-4305
Toll Free:	(866) 747-4305
Fax:	(705) 647-5779

Kirkland Lake

Tel:	(705) 567-9355
Toll Free:	(866) 967-9355
Fax:	(705) 567-5476

After-Hours or Weekend On-Call Number (705) 647-3033

www.timiskaminghu.com

To: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, and Midwives Hospital Infection Control Departments and Emergency Departments

Two new important guidance documents were received over the weekend.

The new <u>COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update</u> V. 5.0, May 28, 2020 includes several updates including:

- 1. Guidance on asymptomatic close contact testing (Page 4)
- 2. Clarified facility transfer guidance (Page 4)
- 3. Added testing guidance prior to surgical procedures (Page 5)
- 4. Added information on contact-based testing in hospitals (Page 6)
- 5. Added information on contact-based testing in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes
- 6. (Page 7)
- 7. Added information on contact-based testing in Congregate Living Settings and Institutions (Page 8)
- 8. Added information on enhanced contact-based testing in Workplaces and Community Settings (Page 8)

The <u>COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance</u> Version 7.0 May 28, 2020 has also been updated and includes the following highlights:

- All cases should now be cleared using the non-test based approach.
- An individual that has previously had laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 AND was cleared, should generally **not** be re-tested due to persistent shedding.
- Repeat testing after a positive result is **not** required.