

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

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

There were a few important documents that were released over the weekend.

[COVID-19 Guidance: Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting, V. 5, May 22, 2020](#)

The Ministry of Health has updated their COVID-19 Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting. Updates include:

- Expanded guidance for in-person care for essential visits, including guidance on reducing patient flow;
- Expanded guidance on testing and specimen collection;
- Additional details on occupational health and safety, including PPE requirements and IPAC guidance;
- Links to new resources.

Please note the following wording in Bullet 30:

- Primary care providers who are asymptomatic and have returned from travel outside of the province, in the last 14 days and/or have had unprotected exposure to a person with COVID-19 and have been identified critical to operations in their organization are required to self-isolate at work. Information on how to effectively do this can be found on the [MOH COVID-19 website](#).

THU encourages professional and clinical judgement be used in determining risk for out-of-province workers. At the present time, we do not deem travel to Abitibi-Témiscamingue to be a high-risk exposure.

Memorandum on Additional Direction on Testing Strategy, May 24, 2020

Premier Ford has commented publicly on this document. The important change is highlighted here:

Effective immediately, testing is available for the following populations:

Symptomatic testing:

- **All people with at least one symptom** of COVID-19, even for mild symptoms.

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

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT

May 25, 2020

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

Asymptomatic, risk-based testing

- People who are concerned that they have been exposed to COVID-19. This includes people who are contacts of or may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case.
- People who are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their employment, including essential workers (e.g., health care workers, grocery store employees, food processing plants).

Regional Assessment Centres

The RACs and THU's COVID-19 line are aware of the above changes. We are currently working with the RACs and will update contact information and hours of operation as more information becomes available. At present, the RACs continue to swab patients on a booked appointment basis.