

Media Release



Timiskaming Part of Stage Two Reopening June 12, 2020 – For immediate release

Effective Friday, June 12, more businesses and public spaces will be allowed to reopen in Timiskaming district, one of the regions in Ontario proceeding to Stage 2 of the Framework for Reopening our Province. Changes include an increase in size of gatherings to 10 people or less and the reopening of places of worship to 30% capacity. More retail spaces, personal service settings, restaurants with patios, and certain recreational activities can also open as long as they put in place safety protocols and respect ongoing restrictions.

Since close contact with a higher number of people increases risk of COVID-19, Timiskaming Health Unit is now asking people to keep a record of or remember anyone they come in close contact with. This information is essential for public health staff to do rapid contact tracing of a positive case, to prevent spread of the virus.

“We know the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, but together, we have done an excellent job in absorbing the first wave. To keep our communities healthy, we ask that everyone continue to play their part and follow the public health recommendations that have worked so well,” said Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health for Timiskaming. “If you have a COVID-19 symptom, please get tested. It is still safest to only be in close contact with your household. If you are socializing with others, it is best to do so outside, maintain physical distancing, keep track of your contacts and remember it is a provincial order to be in social gatherings of no more than 10 people.”

Timiskaming residents should continue to practice physical distancing, wear a mask when distancing is not possible, stay home if they are sick, wash hands often, and cover their cough or sneeze. Any person who travels outside Timiskaming district should closely self-monitor on their return and reach out for testing as soon as symptom develops. Anyone who might have been exposed to settings or communities experiencing an outbreak should self-isolate for 14 days if feasible.

Not everyone is at equal risk for COVID-19. People at high risk for severe disease should limit their time in the community as long as COVID-19 continues to circulate. Also, social, economic or other factors may limit people’s ability to maintain physical distancing or follow other public health measures. Public health is encouraging those who are able to do their part by following the measures and protecting others in the community, and working to support others who may be more vulnerable or need added support during this challenging time.

It is a positive development for Timiskaming to be able to move into stage 2 of reopening. This needs happen while being COVID-aware and COVID-smart. More information is available at www.timiskaminghu.com and Timiskaming’s COVID line at 705-647-4305 or 1-866-747-4305, Ext. 7. For more information on COVID-19 go to [Timiskaming Health Unit – COVID-19](#) and/or [Ontario Ministry of Health – COVID-19](#)

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