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February 12, 2021

Dear business owner/operator,

I am writing to inform you that Timiskaming district will be entering the Green-Prevent zone of the province's COVID-19 response framework. This change will go into effect on Tuesday, February 16. Additionally, the Ontario Chief Medical Officer Health has put in place an "emergency brake" that can be used at any time to immediately place a district back in shutdown if there is a sudden surge in cases, especially considering the variants of concern that are now circulating in Ontario.



Although our district is moving to green, it does not mean everything is a go. With our smaller population, it only takes a few cases for us to move zones. That is why even in the green zone it is still imperative that you practice all public health measures and continue to be COVID smart. The stay at home order is no longer in place; however, allowing employees to work from home when possible is still recommended.

While all businesses are required to read the [framework](#) and its accompanying [regulation](#) in order to determine what actions they must take, I would like to highlight a few key points:

- It is now mandatory to post signage for passive screening. This updated signage is available [here](#).
- A safety plan is now mandatory. More information about developing a safety plan is available [here](#).
- Employee screening is mandatory and the province has made changes to screening documents. Active screening must be used for everyone who works at a business or organization before they enter the premises. The province's updated screening tool is available [here](#).
- A reminder that masks are still required by law in all indoor public spaces and in indoor workplaces.

Note that Timiskaming Health Unit has updated our website to include a new COVID-19 page for businesses. This page includes information about masking requirements, an employer toolkit and communications resources, and sector-specific guidance and resources. Click [here](#) for more information.

If you have any questions, please refer to the links above or contact the Timiskaming Health Unit at 1-866-747-4305.

Sincerely,

Dr. Glenn Corneil, B.Sc., M.D., C.C.F.P., F.C.F.P.  
Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO