



Services de santé du

TIMISKAMING

Health Unit

Enhancing your health in so many ways.

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March 19, 2021

Dear business owner/operator,

I am writing to inform you that Timiskaming will be moving to the [“Yellow - Protect”](#) level of Ontario’s Re-opening framework. This change will be effective on **Monday, March 22, 2021**.



Changes to our district’s zone in the framework are not made lightly and are made by the government of Ontario in consultation with the Timiskaming Health Unit. Factors that are considered include the level of virus circulating within our community, the capacity of our hospitals and other healthcare partners, and the ability of public health to properly follow up with cases of COVID-19 and their contacts in a timely manner.

While all businesses are required to read the [framework](#) and its accompanying [regulation](#) in order to determine what actions they must take to remain open, I have highlighted certain sections below.

If you have any questions, please contact the Timiskaming Health Unit at 1-866-747-4305.

Social gatherings

Gathering limits have not changed. During gatherings, limit close contact to people you live with and stay at least 2 metres apart from everyone else. You should wear a mask in all indoor public spaces, indoor workplaces, and whenever physical distancing may be a challenge. Limits for social gatherings are 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors. Events and gatherings in staffed business and facilities allow a maximum of 50 people indoors or 100 people outdoors. For religious services, including weddings and funerals, maximums are 30% of the room capacity indoors and 100 people outdoors.

Screening

Active screening of patrons is no longer required in most settings. However, businesses are still required to display a [screening poster](#) at all entrances, and [employees must screen before going to work each day](#). Active screening requirements remain in place for indoor malls, who can use the [patron screening tool](#) to help meet this requirement.

Safety Plans

All businesses were previously required to create a safety plan under higher levels of the framework. We recommend that you continue to follow this plan to be proactive in protecting your employees. However, under Yellow - Protect, safety plans are only required for retail, restaurants, bars, sport and fitness

facilities, meeting and event spaces, shopping malls, personal care services (salons, barbers, tattoo parlors, etc.), bingo halls, gaming establishments, cinemas, and performing arts facilities.

Lower Music Volumes

It remains important that the volume of music be low enough that a normal conversation is possible, since yelling and speaking loudly can transmit COVID-19.

Bars and Restaurants

The limit of patrons per table has increased to 6, compared to the Orange – Restrict level of the framework. Contact information must be collected for every seated patron, even if they are from the same household. Opening hours and hours from liquor sales have increased. Bars and restaurants may be open between 5 am and 12 am, and liquor may be sold between 9 am and 11 pm. Active screening of patrons is no longer required in this setting.

Sport and Fitness Facilities

Restrictions that remain in place from Orange – Restrict include: 3 meters distance between patrons and a fitness class maximum capacity of 10 patrons indoors and 25 patrons outdoors. Contact information must still be collected for everyone who enters the facility, and facilities remain accessible by reservation only. Active screening is no longer required in this setting, a 90-minute maximum time limit for patrons is no longer in place, and a limited number of spectators are now permitted.

Personal care settings

Services requiring removal of face coverings are once again allowed, provided that the worker is wearing a face mask and eye protection. Sensory deprivation pods and adult venues may re-open but oxygen bars, steam rooms, and saunas remain closed.

Sincerely,



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