

## IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

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

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**Important updates are included in this alert.**

### **School and Child Care Documents**

You will find links to the documents THU has created for schools and school boards which were updated to include the recent changes to the provincial [COVID-19 Screening Tool / French version](#). We are sharing so that you are aware of the communication and guidance offered by THU.

*Documents include:*

- [Back to School/Child Care Confirmation Form / French version](#) (this link is the updated form produced by THU. Not all school boards are using an attestation form while some boards have developed their own).
- [Decision Tool / French version](#) (this decision replaces the previously distributed school algorithms).

Questions can be directed to our school line at 705-647-4305 or 1-866-747-4305 ext. 2267 or by sending an email to [schools@timiskaminghu.com](mailto:schools@timiskaminghu.com) / [ecoles@timiskaminghu.com](mailto:ecoles@timiskaminghu.com).

### **Respiratory Virus Testing**

Public Health Ontario has released an update to the [laboratory's respiratory virus testing algorithm](#).

*Significant change includes:*

Effective November 2, 2020 PHO's laboratory will implement a new laboratory developed multiplex respiratory virus PCR panel, "FLUVID", consisting of targets for influenza A, influenza B, SARS-CoV-2, and respiratory syncytial virus (A + B).

The specific test being requested AND patient setting must also appear on the requisition to help with appropriate test assignment and triaging of specimens. If patient setting is not provided, the specimen will only be tested for SARS-CoV-2. Please use the [COVID-19 Test Requisition form](#) and ensure you are using a [compatible test collection kit](#).

For outbreaks or investigations, the requisition must include the assigned outbreak or investigational number.

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**

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**After-Hours or Weekend  
On-Call Number**

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