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# Media Release



## **Improved access to COVID-19 testing April 14, 2020 - For immediate release**

Temiskaming Shores, Ontario — Today, Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO of the Timiskaming Health Unit (THU), is announcing that there will be an increase in the number of tests conducted for the COVID-19 virus in Timiskaming district, as part of a targeted Northern Ontario surveillance opportunity.

“This important, time-limited, initiative to expand testing will provide a better understanding of the status of COVID-19 in our district,” says Dr. Corneil. “As a result, there will be an increase in testing across the THU region throughout the month of April to collect this information and help guide our next steps. Testing will be temporarily expanded to include symptomatic members of the public and not just those that fall under the high priority groupings.”

In conjunction with the April surveillance program, 3 Regional Assessment Centres will be opening in order to conduct swabbing. The drive-through centres will be located at Heritage North in Kirkland Lake, the Englehart and District Family Health Team, and the north entrance of Temiskaming Hospital. The surveillance program will run Monday to Friday, from Wednesday April 15 to Thursday April 30, 2020. Since the Assessment Centres do not accept walk-ins, the public is still required to call THU to be booked at the appropriate centre for a testing appointment.

The Province has recently updated the list of possible COVID-19 symptoms to include cough, fever, difficulty breathing, sore throat/hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing, a loss of sense of smell or taste, fatigue, muscle aches, runny nose, loss of appetite, diarrhea, and nausea or vomiting. Should you have symptoms, call the Timiskaming Health Unit COVID line at 705-647-4305 or 1-866-747-4305, ext 7 to speak to someone regarding testing. Asymptomatic people will not be tested.

Dr. Corneil urges residents, “If you are unwell, you must stay home but consider getting tested during this surveillance period. Please remember that if you qualify for testing, it is essential that you remain in quarantine until the test results are known, even if your symptoms resolve. These are essential measures in reducing the spread of COVID-19.”

Visit [Ontario's website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

For more information:

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