

Media Release



Removal of 3 positive cases from the Timiskaming Health Unit COVID-19 case count September 28, 2020 – for Immediate Release

The Timiskaming Health Unit is announcing that the district's COVID-19 total case count has now officially decreased from 19 to 16. A decrease is not an unusual occurrence for health units but it becomes notable for those units with smaller numbers, hence we are highlighting this change via a press release.

Positive cases are attributed to a health unit by the patient's address. At the time of diagnosis in August, Case #19 did not have a known fixed address. We recently were advised that Case #19 has now been determined to have a home address in another Ontario Health Unit jurisdiction so this case has been removed from our count. This notification also led to a review of our district's first two cases with the Ministry of Health. These two patients have now been recorded as cases in another province so they too are off our statistics, bringing the total COVID-19 case count for Timiskaming Health Unit district down to 16. As we update our website with this new total case count, we will also be changing our format for case reporting in order to further protect patient confidentiality.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind our district how important it is to continue to maintain a high level of vigilance for new COVID cases and to continue to closely follow public health measures and direction. Group gatherings continue to be a source of concern locally. Please limit your number of close contacts and follow the province's updated guidelines on gatherings to a maximum of 25 people outdoors and 10 people indoors. People who host a gathering in excess of these maximums may be subject to fines up to \$10 000. During any gatherings, if you can't maintain physical distancing from people who aren't within your immediate social circle of 10 people, then please wear a mask. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, please get tested as this is the only way we will know if our local levels of COVID are rising. Due to the increasing number of symptomatic people who need to be tested, asymptomatic people should only be tested if they are advised to do so by a health unit or if they fall under an asymptomatic testing program, such as visitors and staff of long-term care homes.

If it has been determined that you are a close contact of a positive case, you will be contacted in a timely fashion by the health unit. A close contact is defined as having been within 6 feet/2 metres for 15 minutes or more with someone who is COVID positive. The timeframe that this applies to starts from 48 hours prior to the start of the patient's symptoms to 14 days after. If you have had a lower risk contact, such as contact with a positive case earlier than the 48 hour mark or a brief interaction of less than 15 minutes, please closely monitor yourself and if symptoms develop, immediately move to self-isolation and contact your local assessment center for testing. Please consider downloading Canada's COVID-alert app as this can help you know if you have been in close contact with a positive case.

Any future positive cases of COVID-19 in our district will be posted to our website (www.timiskaminghu.com), specific media releases may not be issued. Additional information regarding COVID-19 is also available on our website.

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

Media Contact:
Ryan Peters, Communications Manager
705-647-4305, Ext. 2250
Email: petersr@timiskaminghu.com