

Media Release



Addition of one case and removal of two cases of COVID-19 for the Timiskaming Health Unit

October 5, 2020 – for Immediate Release

Over the past week, the Timiskaming Health Unit has been involved with multiple cases of COVID-19 that are linked by home address to our health unit while also being linked to other jurisdictions. Ontario's Case Contact Managing program was also updated last week and home address is no longer the sole reason to attribute a case to a health unit. After review and applying this update, our two most recent cases have now been designated to other health units while one case will now be documented as a Timiskaming Health Unit case. At present, our total case count is 17.

This newest case is an individual who is in the under 20 age category and has a home address in our district, but is currently living outside of the area. They had spent some time in our region, and were asymptomatic while they were here. This individual is well and the case is now resolved. There have not been any additional positive cases linked to this individual at this time. The Timiskaming Health Unit has been actively conducting contact tracing from the time of the positive confirmation for all of the above cases. If you have been identified as a local high risk close contact of these cases you will have already been notified.

Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Timiskaming Health Unit said, "One of the most concerning risks for the spread of COVID-19 within the younger population group is private gatherings. Now is not the time for large social get-togethers; you must follow provincial guidelines on gathering limits".

The province's guidelines on gatherings are set at 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.

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. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covidalert>

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](https://www.ontario.ca) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

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Media Contact:

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