

Media Release



Expanded COVID-19 Testing May 26, 2020 – For immediate release

On May 24, 2020, Premier Doug Ford announced that testing for COVID-19 will be expanding across the province. A new provincial directive has been put in place to encourage more testing of people with symptoms of COVID-19. Additionally, the directive expands testing criteria to include some specific asymptomatic groups.

The two categories and criteria are outlined as follows.

Symptomatic testing:

- 1. All people with at least one of the following symptoms** of COVID-19, even for mild symptoms.

Fever (37.8 or higher), cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, difficulty swallowing, loss of sense of smell or taste, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain

Asymptomatic, risk-based testing:

- 2. People who are concerned that they have been exposed to COVID-19.** This includes people who are contacts of or may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case.
- 3. People who are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their employment,** including essential workers (e.g., health care workers, grocery store employees, food processing plants).

If you have questions regarding COVID-19 general inquiries or to book a test, you should call the Timiskaming Health Unit's COVID-19 hotline at 705-647-4305 or 1-866-747-4305, extension 7.

If you meet any one of the criteria above your local Regional Assessment Center (RAC) can also be contacted directly for testing. At present, the RACs continue to swab patients on a booked appointment basis only.

Temiskaming Shores and area Regional Assessment Center – 705-648-1844
Englehart and area Regional Assessment Center – 705-568-2127
Kirkland Lake and area Regional Assessment Center – 705-568-2127

Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health and CEO for the Timiskaming Health Unit said, "Testing symptomatic people continues to be our primary focus. If you have any symptoms, even mild, please get tested."

Residents are also reminded to not let their guard down as the province begins to re-open.

- Continue to practice physical distancing, which means staying at least 2 metres away from anyone who is not in your household or 'social bubble'
- Wash hands frequently and do not touch your face
- Do not gather in groups of more than 5 people
- Consider wearing a home-made mask if out in the community

- Stay home if unwell and contact your local RAC to schedule an appointment or Timiskaming Health Unit for assessment
- When doing errands, distancing must still occur and please respect any additional safety measures the businesses have put in place
- It is important to go outside and exercise, but stay at least 2 metres from others and try to change your route or time of day that you go out to make it easier to follow these guidelines
- Reach out to vulnerable people in your community who may need support
- Continue to stay in your home center; if essential to travel into or out of district, you must continue to practice all public health measures

For more information on COVID-19 go to [Timiskaming Health Unit – COVID-19](#) and/or [Ontario Ministry of Health – COVID-19](#)

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