

Media Release



Masks available for those in need August 25, 2020 – for Immediate Release

The Timiskaming Health Unit has partnered with local businesses across the district to set up “mask depots” – places that people who need a mask can go, and get disposable or reusable cloth masks for free. With recent instructions from the local Acting Medical Officer of Health requiring masks or face coverings when in an indoor public place, Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) staff connected with community partners to support those in our community who face barriers to buying, making, or washing their own masks.

“Everyone should have the opportunity to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. But for many, getting face masks for themselves or their families isn’t as easy as it sounds. We don’t want anyone to be restricted by this requirement or to feel stigmatized,” says Krystal Oviatt, Public Health Promoter at THU. “One of the many roles of public health is to be aware of and try to minimize the negative impacts of programming for key population groups”, adds Oviatt. To try to help reduce this burden, THU has set up locations in each community for easier access to masks.

Cloth masks were sourced locally, from multiple makers across the district. Anyone in need can visit a depot for free masks, up to 2 cloth masks and/or up to 10 disposable masks are available per person. Reusable cloth masks are available in both children and adult sizes. The masks come with a bilingual instruction card with tips on proper use, care and disposal of masks.

These free masks are available at the following locations:

Virginiatown	- McGarry Town Office
Larder Lake	- Larder Sports Bait and Tackle
Matachewan	- Dog Star Service
Elk Lake	- J&S Variety
Temagami	- Petro-Canada
Latchford	- Dam Depot
Cobalt	- JJ's Corner Store
Haileybury	- Mike's One Stop
New Liskeard	- Salvation Army
Kirkland Lake	- Pronto Store
Englehart	- Valu-Mart
Earlton	- Cote's Variety Store

Timiskaming Health Unit will continue to work with community partners to support the program as needed and ensure it is working well and meeting the community’s needs.

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