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# Media Release



## Three new COVID-19 cases

### December 19, 2020 - For immediate release

The Timiskaming Health Unit is announcing three new cases of COVID-19 today. All three cases are from the north end of the district and are self-isolating.

One of the three cases is a hospital worker from [Blanche River Health](#) - Kirkland Lake location. The Timiskaming Health Unit has been working closely with the hospital and all Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures are being followed.

“The overall increase in cases over the past two weeks continues to be concerning,” said Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health and CEO for the Timiskaming Health Unit. “Having a case in a primary care setting does bring additional challenges, although I am very confident in the pre-planning the hospital has undertaken to prepare for a situation such as this.”

Blanche River Health President and CEO, Sean Conroy added, “We realize there are community concerns when COVID-19 directly affects our hospitals like this, but I want to reassure people that we have implemented many infection control protocols that are designed to provide for safe patient and visitor interactions with our health care team, while also aiming to protect our own staff and inpatients to the greatest extent possible.”

The Health Unit urges everyone to continue to follow public health measures as our district prepares to enter the “yellow/protect” category of the [province’s framework](#) on Monday.

“I know COVID-19 is causing the holiday season to be very different this year, which is certainly difficult, but we need everyone to follow all recommendations and provincial orders to help limit the spread of COVID-19,” said Corneil.

District residents are reminded to:

- Continue practicing physical distancing
- Wear a mask or face covering in public indoor spaces
- Wash hands with warm water or use alcohol based sanitizers and do not touch your face
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow
- Do not gather in large groups, no more than 10 indoors and 25 outdoors
- Do not gather with people outside of your household
- Avoid non-essential travel outside of our district, especially to high transmission areas
- Stay home if unwell and contact your local Assessment Centre (AC) to schedule an appointment for testing
- Respect public health and any additional safety measures businesses have put in place
- Reach out to vulnerable people in your community who may need support

For more information on COVID-19, please go to our website [page](#) or visit the Ontario’s [website](#).

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