

Media Release



Timiskaming moves to Green-Prevent zone of the province's COVID-19 response framework

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The Government of Ontario has announced that Timiskaming district will move to the Green-Prevent zone of the province's COVID-19 response framework, effective Tuesday, February 16. This change means that many businesses will be allowed to re-open. COVID-19 prevention measures must be in place at all businesses. More information about these measures is available in the province's complete COVID-19 framework [here](#); full details about each zone's restrictions are found at the bottom of the webpage.

In addition to these changes, the Ontario Chief Medical Officer Health has put in place an "emergency brake" that can be used at any time to immediately place a district back in shutdown if there is a sudden surge in cases, especially considering the variants of concern that are now circulating in Ontario.

"Although we are moving to green, it does not mean everything is a go," said Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health and CEO for Timiskaming Health Unit. "Moving forward, I am particularly uneasy about the variants of concern that are more contagious and are circulating in Ontario. It's especially important to avoid non-essential travel and social gatherings. With our smaller population, it only takes a few cases for us to move categories. That is why even in the green category it is still imperative that everyone practice all public health measures and continue to be COVID smart."

District residents are reminded to follow public health measures:

- Continue practicing physical distancing
- Wear a mask or face covering in public indoor spaces
- Wash hands with soap and warm water or use alcohol-based sanitizers and do not touch your face
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow
- Avoid gatherings with people outside of your household
- Avoid non-essential travel outside of our district, especially to high transmission areas
- Stay home if you feel sick 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, visit www.timiskaminghu.com and the [Ontario Coronavirus website](#).

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