



**Head Office:**

247 Whitewood Avenue, Unit 43  
PO Box 1090  
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0  
Tel.: 705-647-4305 Fax: 705-647-5779

**Branch Offices:**

Englehart Tel.: 705-544-2221 Fax: 705-544-8698  
Kirkland Lake Tel.: 705-567-9355 Fax: 705-567-5476

[www.timiskaminghu.com](http://www.timiskaminghu.com)

March 25, 2021

Dear business owner/operator,

I am writing to inform you that we have just been notified that Timiskaming will be moving to the “Red - Control” level of Ontario’s COVID-19 response framework, effective **Friday, March 26, 2021**. This means that there are changes to the COVID-19 precautions that your business needs to take.

Changes to our district’s zone in the framework are not made lightly and are made by the government of Ontario in consultation with the Timiskaming Health Unit. Factors that are considered include the level of COVID-19 and its variants circulating within our community, the capacity of our hospitals and other healthcare partners, and the ability of public health to properly follow-up with cases of COVID-19 and their contacts in a timely manner.

While all businesses are required to read the [framework](#) and its accompanying [regulation](#) in order to determine what actions they must take to remain open, I would like to highlight certain sections.

### **Stay home**

Work remotely, where possible. Trips outside of the home should only be for essential reasons. Families should not visit any other household or allow visitors in their homes. Everyone should avoid social gatherings.

### **Gathering limits**

Gathering limits are reduced in the Red – Control zone. During gatherings, limit close contact to people you live with and stay at least 2 metres apart from everyone else. You should wear a mask in all indoor public spaces, indoor workplaces, and whenever physical distancing may be a challenge. Limits for all social gatherings and organized public events are 5 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. For weddings, funerals, and religious services (excluding services held at private dwellings), 30% of the room capacity is permitted indoors and 100 people maximum outdoors.

### **Screening**

Some businesses must actively screen patrons by asking screening questions. The businesses that must conduct active screening are: indoor malls; restaurants, bars, and other food and drink establishments (not required for take-out, drive-thru, and delivery); sports and recreational fitness facilities; meeting and event spaces; personal care services; and casinos, bingo halls, and gaming establishments. You can use the [COVID-19 customer screening](#) to help meet the active screening requirement. For more information, please see the province’s [Screening Tool](#).



## **Safety plans and capacity signage**

A safety plan is mandatory for all businesses and employers. More information about developing a safety plan is available [here](#). Retail businesses and food and drink establishments must post signage listing their capacity.

## **Bars and restaurants**

Indoors, capacity limits are the lesser of approximately 50% of indoor dining area or 50 people. Outdoors, capacity is limited to allow physical distancing of 2 metres. For indoor dining, patrons may only be seated with members of their same households, with limited exceptions for caregivers and people who live alone. Contact information is required for all seated patrons. All establishments must be closed between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Liquor may only be sold between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Dancing, singing, and live performance of music are prohibited. Personal protective equipment **including eye protection** is required when a worker must come within 2 metres of another person who is not wearing a face covering.

## **Sport and fitness facilities**

Facilities are accessible by reservation only, and screening of patrons is required. Contact information must be collected for everyone who enters the facility. Spacing between patrons must be 3 meters. Maximum 10 people indoors in classes or in areas with weights or exercise equipment; maximum 25 people outdoors in classes. No team sports except for training (no games or scrimmage). Activities that are likely to result in individuals coming within 2 m of each other are not permitted. No spectators are permitted; however, each person under 18 may be accompanied by one parent or guardian.

## **Retail**

Capacity limits are 75% for supermarkets and other stores that primarily sell groceries, convenience stores, pharmacies; and 50% for all other retail, including discount and big box retailers, liquor stores, cannabis stores, hardware stores and garden centres.

## **Personal care settings**

Services requiring removal of face coverings are prohibited. Some settings, including bath houses and adult venues, are closed.

## **Cinemas and performing arts facilities**

Closed, except for: drive-in cinemas; rehearsal or performing a recorded or broadcasted event.

Sincerely,



Dr. Glenn Corneil, B.Sc., M.D., C.C.F.P., F.C.F.P.  
Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO