

Media Release



Timiskaming Health Unit announces significant spike in COVID-19 cases November 18, 2021 – For immediate release

SITUATION UPDATE: There is currently a significant spike in COVID-19 cases throughout our district. Community spread of COVID-19 is on the rise, meaning that Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) cannot confirm where some COVID-positive people got the virus. This increases the risk to the greater community, since it makes containment of the virus more difficult.

Cases in Sudbury and Algoma are also increasing dramatically and those health units have had to put additional public health measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If our local trends continue, THU may have to put similar restrictions in place. Also of concern, our local hospitals are currently under significant pressures.

Please be vigilant, get vaccinated, and be COVID-kind.

It's time to use extra care to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- More than ever, monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 before going to work, school, meeting up with friends and family, or going anywhere in our communities. If you have any symptoms, even minor ones, stay home and complete the COVID-19 assessment tool to see if you should get tested, even if you are fully vaccinated.
- Wear a mask and practice physical distancing in indoor public spaces and indoor workplaces.
- Consider limiting your contacts.
- Get vaccinated against COVID-19! Vaccination continues to be our #1 defense.

When gathering indoors:

- with people from outside your household who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or status is unknown, you should wear a face covering and physically distance.
- with a group of **fully vaccinated** individuals, you may consider removing your face covering if everyone is comfortable doing so.

We ask that everyone be COVID kind. Be patient with businesses, who are doing extra work to keep their staff and customers safe. Be patient with your friends and neighbours, especially people who are ill or vulnerable. Be patient with the Assessment Centre staff, who are currently doing extra work to test hundreds of contacts. Be patient with THU staff who are doing their jobs. If you are a close contact, we are required to follow up with you and have you follow provincial isolation and testing requirements. Due to our increasing numbers, provincial contact tracers will be supporting THU in making calls and you may receive a phone call from a number outside of our district. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

For more information about COVID-19, visit <https://www.timiskaminghu.com/90484/COVID-19>

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