

## **Surge of COVID-19 Triggers Additional Mandatory Measures in Timiskaming Health Unit area**

**November 23, 2021 - For immediate release**

In response to rapidly rising COVID-19 cases in the Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) area, THU is taking further action to curb the spread of the virus, prevent severe illness and death in our communities, and protect health system capacity.

THU's Acting Medical Officer of Health, with the support of the provincial Chief Medical Officer of Health, is taking the following three actions.

1. THU has updated the Section 22 Class Order, which legally requires anyone in the Timiskaming Health Unit area who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection, or who is identified as a close contact to follow isolation requirements and other public health direction. While the vast majority of people follow isolation requirements, people who do not comply with this Section 22 Class Order may be liable for a set fine of \$880 or otherwise of up to \$5,000 per day or part of each day that the offence continues.
2. Requiring businesses and organizations in the Timiskaming Health Unit area to reinstate the provincial capacity limits and physical distancing requirements that were lifted on September 25, 2021, and strengthening masking requirements both indoors and outdoors. Masking is required at businesses, organizations, and organized public events (indoors or outdoors) if physical distancing of at least 2 meters cannot be maintained. (Certain exemptions, for example for medical reasons, remain in place.) In general, businesses and organizations must put capacity limits in place so that patrons can maintain physical distancing of at least 2 meters.
3. Requiring anyone aged 12 years and older in the Timiskaming Health Unit area to provide proof of identification and vaccination if they are entering an indoor facility to actively participate in, coach, officiate, volunteer, or spectate at an organized sport. Participants aged 12-18 were previously exempt but must show proof of vaccination beginning November 26, 2021.

“Currently we are seeing a high level of COVID-19 spread through every part of our district,” said Dr. Glenn Corneil, CEO and Acting Medical Officer of Health for THU. “Given our high cases, it’s unfortunately necessary to put additional public health measures in place. Everyone should consider limiting their contacts to reduce the chances of further increases of COVID-19 in our communities. Our health care resources are currently stretched. THU has called upon provincial contact tracers to assist with calling contacts.”

For more information, please visit [Timiskaming Health Unit’s new webpage about Class Orders and Letters of Instruction](#).

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