

MEDIA RELEASE

Fourth Confirmed Death from COVID-19 in the Porcupine Health Unit Area

For Immediate Release – Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Timmins, Ontario — Dr. Lianne Catton, Medical Officer of Health, Porcupine Health Unit, is reporting of the fourth death attributed to COVID-19. “It is with extreme sadness that we are announcing another tragic loss related to COVID-19.” This individual, a male in his eighties, was identified during the outbreak investigation at Timmins and District Hospital, tested positive on April 22, 2020, and was admitted to hospital. “We would like to extend our most sincere sympathies to his family and loved ones.” Out of respect during this difficult time, no further details will be provided.

“We at the Timmins and District Hospital also offer our condolences to the family and loved ones affected by this loss,” conveys Blaise MacNeil, President and Chief Executive Officer at Timmins and District Hospital. The investigation process is ongoing at the hospital while it remains in outbreak. “The safety and well-being of our patients and staff remains our top priority,” assures MacNeil. “We will continue to work closely with the Porcupine Health Unit throughout this investigation.”

The Porcupine Health Unit remains committed to working with all community partners to support enhanced measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 in our communities across the region.

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has, first self-isolate and then use Ontario’s Self-Assessment Tool ([covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment](https://www.covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment)) to see if you need to seek further care. Contact your primary care provider or the Porcupine Health Unit for referral to an Assessment Centre as appropriate.

The Ontario Government is asking all Ontarians to stay home unless absolutely necessary for essential reasons, such as accessing health care services, shopping for groceries, picking up medication, walking pets when required, or supporting vulnerable community members with meeting essential needs. If you must leave your home, stay at least two (2) metres apart from others.

If you need further assistance, call TeleHealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 or your health care provider. You can also call the Porcupine Health Unit at 705-267-1181 or toll-free 1-800-461-1818.

Visit Ontario’s website to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19. ([covid-19.Ontario.ca](https://www.covid-19.ontario.ca))

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