

## Bulletin

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

**Issued: Thursday, May 7, 2020**

“It is with extreme sadness that I have the duty to report another COVID related death in the Porcupine Health Unit region”, says Dr. Lianne Catton, Medical Officer of Health, Porcupine Health Unit (PHU). This individual was in his 70s and admitted to Timmins and District Hospital, having tested positive for COVID-19 on April 26, 2020. His death was related to an institutional outbreak. Out of respect for his family, no further information will be shared. “Again, these losses are extremely difficult to announce and to hear as a community. Of course, the greatest loss is for the family and friends of this gentleman. We extend our deepest condolences to them during this time.”

“We want to extend our most sincere condolences to the family and friends of this gentleman,” stated Blaise MacNeil, President and Chief Executive Officer at the Timmins and District Hospital (TADH). “The impact of any loss is felt greatly throughout our community and our thoughts remain with those affected.”

TADH continues to work closely with the PHU throughout the investigation process. To ensure the ongoing safety of all patients and staff the hospital is operating with visitor restrictions in effect, enhanced PPE requirements and active screening at all Hospital entrances. All patients and staff who provide direct patient care, or who work in patient care areas are required to wear a mask while on site.

“This tragic loss highlights the seriousness of what is happening in our communities,” says Catton. “This is a stressful time for all. We need to continue to work together to protect our families, neighbours, coworkers, and communities to limit the spread of COVID-19. Stay home as much as possible. If you have to go out, practice physical distancing by keeping at least 2 metres or 6 feet distance between yourself and others. Please stay home if you're feeling ill to help reduce the impact of COVID-19.”

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, first self-isolate and then call your health care provider or the Porcupine Health Unit at 705-267-1181 or toll-free 1-800-461-1818.

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) meters apart from others.

Visit [Ontario's website](#) at to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.