

MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19: Porcupine Health Unit Region will Remain Under Temporary Shutdown



For Immediate Release — Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Timmins, Ontario —Today, Dr. Lianne Catton, Medical Officer of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU), confirms, “The Government of Ontario is extending the Province-Wide Shutdown and the Stay-at-Home order, along with all existing public health and workplace safety measures in a number of regions, including the PHU area, until at least Tuesday, February 16, 2021.”

“The current shutdown measures are being extended to help minimize transmission of the virus and prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed,” Dr. Catton said. “With increasing COVID variants across the province, in the north, and now the possible presence of a COVID-19 variant in our region, we must remain even more vigilant.” Since January 1, 2021, 163 cases have been confirmed in PHU communities.

The PHU will return to the revised *COVID-19 Response Framework* based on case numbers and context of COVID-19 in the region,” Dr. Catton stated. “At this time, we don’t know what zone or color category we will be, but we will share this information when it becomes available,” adds Dr. Catton. “The most important thing is that we all continue to do our part – stay home, wear a mask, distance, wash your hands, isolate and get tested if you have symptoms.”

Residents of the PHU region must continue to follow the restrictions that they have been adhering to since January 12, 2021.

Major restrictions under the provincewide shutdown and stay-at-home order include:

- Indoor organized public events and social gatherings are not permitted, except with the people you live with. Do not visit others in their home or allow visitors in your home.
- Limit outdoor gatherings to 5 people and maintain physical distancing.
- Individuals who live alone may consider having close contact with only one other family.
- Prohibiting in-person shopping in most retail settings. Curbside pickup and delivery can continue.

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- Supermarkets, grocery stores and similar stores that primarily sell food, as well as pharmacies, will continue to operate.
- Indoor and outdoor dining will be prohibited at restaurants. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments can continue to operate take out, drive-through and delivery only.

A detailed list of restrictions and requirements can be found the Ministry of Health's *COVID-19 Public Health Measures and Restrictions page*.

Additional COVID-19 information can be found on the Porcupine Health Unit's website.

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

Download the COVID Alert app.

The Porcupine Health Unit is located in Northeastern Ontario, serving the entire Cochrane District and Hornepayne, in Algoma District. The main office is located in Timmins, Ontario, with branch offices in Cochrane, Hearst, Hornepayne, Iroquois Falls, Kapuskasing, Matheson, Moosonee and Smooth Rock Falls.

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