

MEDIA RELEASE

PHU and TADH Worried About COVID-19 Hospital Admissions

For Immediate Release – Saturday, May 15, 2021

Timmins, Ontario — As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Timmins and District Hospital and the Medical Officer of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit, we are asking for our community's help to slow the spread of COVID-19. Over the past few weeks cases have continued to soar within the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU) region and with the rise in cases, an increase in hospital admissions. As of 2:00 PM this afternoon, the TADH has a total of 10 patients admitted who have tested positive for COVID-19.

“We are very concerned to see this increase in hospitalizations during the third wave, especially as cases in our community continue to rise on a daily basis,” states Kate Fyfe, President and CEO of the Timmins and District Hospital (TADH). “While our hospital is not feeling the same pressures as our Southern Ontario colleagues, we are seeing more people with COVID-19 requiring medical attention than ever before. In under 24 hours COVID-19 admissions at TADH doubled from 5 to 10 patients, with the average age of admission being 42. Simply put, we are seeing younger patients, who are sicker than the previous two waves, needing medical attention in hospital. COVID-19 is actively circulating in our community, and we all need to play a role in safeguarding our hospital and healthcare system capacity, because the trends we're seeing today are concerning. The staff and physicians at TADH have continued to tirelessly respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, but much like we've seen in Southern Ontario, we need our community to do their part. We're asking you to please, follow the public health guidance, book your COVID-19 vaccine and stay home if you're feeling unwell. While our frontline healthcare workers are continuing to respond to the needs of our community, we need our community's help.”

“The record numbers of cases and outbreaks is extremely worrisome, and to now see an increase in hospital admissions and severity of infections, especially in younger people is alarming. This is exactly why we need to work together to gain control of the spread of COVID-19 – we need to act now to save lives,” states Dr. Lianne Catton, Medical Officer of Health of the Porcupine Health Unit. “The third wave of the pandemic is different. The variant first detected in the United Kingdom is responsible for most of the cases during this wave: it spreads more easily and more quickly and is affecting younger and even healthier people across the region. But there are ways to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and get us to the end of this pandemic sooner. We have opened the vaccine clinics to all adults who are 18 years of age and older and soon will be offering vaccines to youth 12 to 17 years old. In addition, we strongly encourage those aged 16 and 17 years who are essential workers and cannot work from home to please book into any clinics offering the **Pfizer** vaccine. Please help, learn about the COVID-19 vaccines and schedule an appointment as soon as possible if you choose to get vaccinated and encourage

others to get their vaccine. We need to recommit to the public health measures and treat every interaction outside of who you live with as a potential exposure.”

We are urging all community members to respect the Stay at Home Order issued by the province and to follow the public health measures to reduce their risk and protect others.

- Stay home, especially if you have symptoms.
- If you have symptoms, even if they are mild, get tested, and stay home while waiting for results. Additionally, while waiting for test results, all household members must stay home.
- Limit your outings to essential purposes only (e.g., groceries, medication, medical care, vaccine). Have only one person from your household run errands if possible.
- If someone in your household is a high-risk contact, please go out only for essential purposes and only if you have no symptoms.
- Maintain physical distancing from people who do not live with you.
- Wear a mask.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- Cough and sneeze in your sleeve.
- Work from home if possible.

And most importantly

- **Get vaccinated**, if you are eligible.

COVID-19 vaccine clinic bookings are available for first doses to all adults 18 years and older. You can register for a vaccine clinic by calling 705-360-4819 or visiting <https://www.canadaehs.com/phu>.

If you have any questions, or wish to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine or any other measures you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19 please visit <https://phu.fyi/coronavirus>.

Together we will keep our community safe!

Thank you, Merci, Meegwetch!

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