



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 15, 2021

To: All Employees

From: Tony DeAgazio, on behalf of the Pandemic Team

Re: Reminders for the Holiday Season

Good morning,

We are in month twenty-one of this pandemic. It is not surprising to see people letting down their guard with respect to public health measures both in private and public spaces. With the holidays approaching, we should all be reminded not to take for granted the progress and recovery that has been made over the past year.

COVID-19 case counts are rising in Ontario and are expected to continue to do so during the holiday period as we continue to contend with Variants of Concern which may present new challenges even to fully vaccinated people.

Diligent hand washing, physical distancing, use of masks and personal protective equipment and active screening for symptoms, continues to be critical in our daily lives, regardless of one's vaccination status.

In our congregate settings, important measures to be particularly mindful of during the holidays include:

- Active screening of everyone entering a congregate setting.
- Staff and visitors who do not pass active screening must not be permitted entry.
- People we support returning from absences should be screening, and where not fully vaccinated, 10-day additional precautions should be followed.
- People we support should be reminded of the importance of frequent hand hygiene, wearing masks and physical distancing when leaving their residence.
- Where possible, socializing should take place outdoors or in a well-ventilated space.
- Schedule general (non-essential) visits to ensure sufficient space for physical distancing.
- Avoid large crowds that make physical distancing difficult.

Please note the following when staff, families and friends are hosting or attending a social gathering outside the congregate setting:

- If anyone is experiencing symptoms, even mild ones, they should stay home.
- There is still a limit of 25 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.
- Wear a mask and physically distance in private indoor spaces if guests are from multiple households and are not fully vaccinated or their vaccination status is unknown.
- Indoor spaces should be well ventilated.
- Practice hand hygiene frequently.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit is recommending that all residents avoid non-essential travel to Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, regardless of an individual's vaccination status.

I have every confidence that staff will continue to show diligence in the workplace. While direct interactions connected to the workplace and congregate settings are key, what we do in our personal lives also contributes directly to infection risks in those settings. All staff and people supported MUST adhere strictly to practices in their personal life that help stop the spread of COVID-19.

For questions or concerns related to any of these updates, please continue to reach out to your immediate supervisor or a member of the pandemic team.

Tony