

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Outbreak Declared at the Porcupine Health Unit in Hearst

For Immediate Release — Wednesday, October 28, 2020

**Timmins, Ontario** — The Porcupine Health Unit (PHU) is declaring an outbreak of COVID-19 at their Hearst office. Two employees of the office have tested positive for COVID-19. Case management has determined that the exposures are related. As a result of the outbreak, the Hearst office is temporarily closed. Staff of the office are currently at home in self-isolation and contact tracing and follow up is being conducted.

Workplace outbreaks are declared if two or more employees are confirmed cases for COVID-19 and the cases are linked, as per the Ministry of Health guidelines. The PHU follows Ministry guidance and is implementing all outbreak management protocols as with other settings.

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, first self-isolate, complete the on-line COVID-19 Self-Assessment (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>) to determine your next steps. If testing is recommended, seek testing through one of the assessment centres across Ontario (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations/>). You can also call the Porcupine Health Unit at 705-267-1181 or toll-free at 1-800-461-1818.

To reduce the risk of exposure, we ask that you continue to follow public health measures:

- screen regularly for symptoms
- stay home and isolate if you have any symptoms
- wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- practice 2 metres physical distancing
- wear a mask in indoor public spaces
- wear a mask indoors and outdoors when physical distancing of 2 metres/6 feet cannot be maintained with anyone outside your household.

*Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.*



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Branch Offices: Cochrane, Hearst, Hornepayne, Iroquois Falls, Kapuskasing, Matheson, Moosonee, Smooth Rock Falls

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.

For further information, please contact:

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