

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

March 12, 2021

NWHU Region Moving to Red Level of COVID-19 Response Framework

The Government of Ontario announced that the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) area will be moving to the Red–Control level of the COVID-19 Response Framework as of March 15, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. There has been an increase in cases across the region and the health unit urges residents to take immediate action to stop the spread of the virus.

“We are one level away from Grey-Shutdown. This is the time for residents to take public health measures seriously. Do not gather indoors with anyone that you do not live with. Stay 2 metres from those not within your household,” says Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health at NWHU. “If you have even one symptom of COVID-19, get tested and stay home. Your family members must also stay home until you have your test results back,” Dr. Kit Young Hoon continues.

The Red-Control level adds additional restrictions that affect the public, businesses, and organizations. Some of the new restrictions include:

- Indoor gathering limit of 5 people
- Outdoor gathering limit of 25 people
- Residents must only go out for essential reasons (work, school, essential shopping, health care, exercise)
- Some businesses and facilities must actively screen customers
- Restaurants must have a limit of 10 customers inside and a maximum of 4 people per table
- Services requiring the removal of face coverings will not be permitted at personal service establishments
- Organized recreational team sports must not be practised or played, with the exception of training sessions for team members. Training sessions are limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, and must not include games/scrimmages. All training session drills/activities must allow for physical distancing of at least 2m between individuals.

For a full list of restrictions in the Red-Control level, visit the [Ontario COVID-19 Response Framework website](#). The new restrictions do not affect the operation or requirements in schools and child care centres.

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The health unit will be reaching out to local workplaces who are inspected by NWHU to provide education and support with the additional restrictions.

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A reminder to the media that Dr. Kit Young Hoon hosts online COVID-19 media briefings every Tuesday, 1:30 pm CT and Friday, 10:00 am CT as well as Q&A sessions for the public every second Thursday, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CT. If you do not have a link to the media briefings, please email jbegg@nwhu.on.ca.