



**Public Health
Santé publique**
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

March 27, 2020

VIA EMAIL

To mining companies and contractors within the Public Health Sudbury and District catchment area:

Public Health Sudbury and Districts is working diligently with all levels of government and community partners to limit the impact of COVID-19 in our communities. The primary focus to this end is supporting the implementation of measures to prevent spread from person to person. Protecting the health of your workforce and capacity of the health system are two related priorities for which we are seeking your cooperation.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts staff have recently been in contact with several mining companies within our catchment area. During these conversations companies have discussed the ways in which they are setting up policies and procedures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread within their operations. While some of these policies and procedures – which include screening at the worksite entrance, fewer employees in the lifts, and staggering of lunches, shift start, and shift end – can help reduce the spread of COVID 19, Public Health continues to receive complaints regarding social (physical) distancing at the mine sites. Without proper social (physical) distancing, a single case of COVID-19 could result in a large number of secondary cases.

Public health units across northern Ontario have been discussing ways to support large employers and all are moving in a similar direction. Many other large employers in the north, including some mines, have already moved to maintenance-only mode as a measure to protect the health of their employees while maintaining integrity of their business operations.

We urge you, if you are unable to implement effective measures to maintain adequate social (physical) distancing for all employees, to consider moving to maintenance level operations.

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
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Rainbow Centre

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
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f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

101 rue Pine Street E
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
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Toll-free / Sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



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District catchment area

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Public Health Sudbury and Districts has numerous recommendations for social (physical) distancing on our [website](#) which can be adapted for the mining sector. A Public Health Inspector may follow up with you in the coming days to learn more about the measures you are taking to protect employee health and prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition, please contact Burgess Hawkins at hawkinsb@phsd.ca or 705-522-9200 ext. 218 to discuss issues and potential options.

We thank you for your continued commitment to our communities' wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

PS:lh