



Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

## For Immediate Release

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(Pembroke, Ontario, 2:15 p.m., May 27, 2021)

### **RCDHU Issues Advisory to RCD Residents Related to COVID-19 Outbreak at Northern Iron Mine**

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is issuing an advisory to any individuals who have arrived in Renfrew County and District (RCD) from the Mary River Mine Site in Nunavut of Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation **since April 30, 2021**, to immediately **self-isolate whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, and notify RCDHU at 613-732-3629 extension 977 or 1-800-267-1097**.

**In addition to self-isolating, RCD residents who have returned from the Mine since April 30, 2021, who currently have symptoms or have previously had symptoms consistent with COVID-19 at any time since April 30, should immediately seek testing and advise all household members to self-isolate.** To arrange COVID-19 testing, contact the Renfrew County Virtual Triage Assessment Centre (VTAC) at 1-844-727-6404 or book an appointment online at <https://rcvtac.ca/>.

An outbreak of COVID-19 was declared at the Mary River Mine site of the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation in early May, involving the B.1.617.2 variant first identified in India. Any individuals who have returned from the Mine since April 30<sup>th</sup> are considered high risk contacts based on potential exposure to COVID-19.

After exposure to COVID-19, it can take up to 14 days to develop COVID-19 infection. It is therefore possible for an individual who tests negative early after exposure to subsequently develop infection and spread COVID-19 to others. A negative test prior to departure from the Mine does not rule out exposure to COVID-19 or developing infection.

This is important information as Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation has been informed that some individuals have developed symptoms shortly after arriving home, despite testing negative prior to departure/flights, meaning that they could have been contagious during flight and after arriving at their destination.

Individuals who have symptoms must:

- Immediately self-isolate and arrange for testing.

- Stay home. Do not go to work, school, child care, or public places. You can go outside, but you must stay on your own property. Do not walk around the neighbourhood.
- Avoid contact with others. No visitors unless deemed essential (e.g., care providers), stay in a separate room away from other people within your household, use a separate bathroom if possible.
- If these steps are not possible, maintain a distance of 2 metres from others at all times.
- Keep your distance. If you are in a room with other people, keep a distance of at least 2 metres and wear a mask or face covering that covers your nose and mouth.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Remember, we need to work together to stop the spread of COVID-19. Stay home. Stay Safe. Save lives. In addition to public health measures set out in the [provincial shutdown](#), it is imperative that everyone do their part to keep the community safe; stay home if they are sick, avoid contact with people who are ill, practice physical distancing (2 metres), wear a mask/face covering when physical distancing cannot be maintained, wash their hands, use the COVID Alert App, and if you are symptomatic, complete the [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) or [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) before going to work, school or daycare, to monitor for symptoms and proper guidance.

For more information, visit RCDHU's website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2/> or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

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