

STATEMENT FROM THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For immediate release: February 25, 2021

A recently released story in the media has indicated that the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit will remain in Shutdown beyond March 8, 2021. At this time, we are unable to determine whether our district will remain in Shutdown with the Stay-at-Home Order in effect or move into the provincial framework after March 8, 2021.

At this time, I have not advocated either way for a decision on whether the district remains in Shutdown or returns to the provincial colour-coded framework on March 8, 2021, it is simply too early to do so. I don't yet have the evidence needed to make predictions about the potential seriousness of our local situation beyond March 8, 2021, as I need to analyze the trends in cases closer to that date. I make decisions that are informed by the current scientific evidence, knowledge and experience we have gained since the pandemic began, consulting with trusted experts and listening to the public's concerns.

As we have all witnessed, our COVID-19 situation can change quickly. We have a small window of opportunity to try to stop the spread of the COVID-19 Variants of Concern in our district. We must all work together, following public health measures, to slow the spread and save lives.

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