

Porcupine Health Unit moves to Step 2 this Wednesday

Haircutting and overnight camping permitted under this step

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The infographic is divided into two main columns, Step 2 (left, blue background) and Step 3 (right, green background). Each column has a header bar with a number in a circle, a percentage, and a description of the vaccination goal. Below each header is a checkmark icon and a title for the step. The main body of each column contains a list of permitted activities. At the bottom of the Step 2 column, there is a small icon of a clock and an arrow pointing right, with the text '<25 days before next step'.

Step	Vaccination Goal	Key Provisions
2	70% Adults with one dose 20% Fully vaccinated	Open indoors with small numbers and face coverings and expand outdoors <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Larger outdoor gatherings for up to 25 people- Small indoor gatherings for up to 5 people- Outdoor dining for up to 5 people per table- Essential retail at 30% capacity- Non-essential retail capacity of 25%- Personal care services where face coverings can be worn at all times- Outdoor meeting and event spaces- Outdoor amusement and water parks- Outdoor food tour operators- Outdoor county fairs and rural exhibitions- Outdoor sports leagues and events- Outdoor concerts, performing arts, live music events and attractions
3	70-80% Adults with one dose 25% Fully vaccinated	Expand indoors where face covering can't always be worn <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Larger indoor and outdoor gatherings- Indoor dining- Essential and non-essential retail open with limited capacity- Larger indoor religious services, rites, and ceremony gatherings- Indoor meeting and event spaces- Indoor sports and recreational facilities- Indoor sealed events- Indoor attractions and cultural amenities- Casinos and bingo fully- Other outdoor activities from Step 2 permitted to operate indoors

Provisions under Step 2 and Step 3 of the provincial pandemic re-opening plan. jpg, TD

Article content

Shaggy headed residents will finally be able to book the haircuts they've been waiting for, while outdoor enthusiasts can finally be able to go camping and engage in outdoor team sports.

The Porcupine Health Unit announced Monday, this region will be moving to Step 2 under the province's pandemic re-opening plan beginning Wednesday, June 30

This marks a further loosening of restrictions for this area, just a week after most of PHU entered Step 1.

The local health unit is now moving into Step 2 in tandem with the rest of the province.

The announcement was made by the Dr. Lianne Catton, the PHU's medical officer of health, during an online press conference held Monday afternoon.

Under the provincial guidelines, Step 2 allows:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events for up to 25 people;
- Indoor social gatherings and organized public events for up to five people;
- Outdoor dining for up to six people per table;
- Essential and other select retail permitted at 50 per cent capacity;
- Non-essential retail capacity at 25 per cent;
- Stores in shopping malls open, with restrictions;
- **Larger indoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services at 25 per cent capacity;**
- Outdoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services, capped at the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres;
- Overnight camping;
- Personal care services where face coverings can be worn at all times at 25 per cent capacity;
- Outdoor fitness classes are capped at the number of people who can maintain three metres of distance;
- Public libraries permitted at 25 per cent capacity;
- Outdoor meeting and event spaces at 25 per cent capacity;
- Outdoor amusement and water parks at 25 per cent capacity;

- Outdoor sports games, leagues and events at 25 per cent capacity;
- Outdoor cinemas, performing arts, live music events and attractions at 25 per cent capacity; and
- Outdoor horse racing and motor speedways at 25 per cent capacity.

According to the provincial guidelines, one of the targets for entering Step 2 is having 70 per cent of the adult population within a health unit area receive their first vaccine dose for COVID-19, and 20 per cent having received their second.

Catton said 74.3 per cent of PHU's adult population has received their first dose, while 54.4 per cent are fully vaccinated.

The announced plan to move into Step 2 comes less than a week after entered Step 1.

Catton acknowledged, it was a "tight turnaround."

The PHU area entered Step 1 on June 25 — two weeks behind the rest of the province.

However, last week, after Catton said efforts would be made to "move in tandem with the province as soon as we can."

One local community that didn't enter Step 1 along with the rest of PHU last week was Moosonee.

The decision was made to extend "enhanced measures" for Moosonee in an effort to control the rampant spread of COVID-19 along the James Bay coast at the time. Moosonee is the gateway community to the coast.

Catton said the PHU would be maintaining existing measures in Moosonee.