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## **NOMA Requests Provincial Assistance with COVID-19 as District Becomes a Hotspot**

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Thunder Bay, ON - The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) is concerned over the rising number of cases in their catchment area. Thunder Bay District and the surrounding areas have quickly become a hotspot for COVID-19 and we are concerned that the province has not recognized our growing need for immediate assistance.

There are currently 406 active Covid-19 cases in the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU). The Northwestern Health Unit has also seen increase in the number of cases including 36 in the Kenora area, 29 in Sioux Lookout, 3 in Dryden and 1 in each of the Atikokan and Fort Frances regions. The new COVID-19 variant has also been detected in the Northwestern Health Unit Service Area.

This is genuinely concerning as the current number of cases is unprecedented and exceeds the total number of cases experienced in 2020. This shows just how quickly things can change and the virus can take hold of a community. NOMA is determined to obtain help for the residents under its catchment to mitigate the situation.

NOMA including the City of Thunder Bay are seeking immediate assistance from the provincial government to help get a handle on the situation as Covid-19 cases continue to rise. “We need help from the province to provide more vaccines in order to keep our residents safe” said Mayor Wendy Landry, NOMA President. Increasing the number of vaccines administered to residents will help slow the spread along with continuing lockdown measures.

Our communities are vulnerable, and businesses are suffering. More vaccines and additional financial assistance will go a long way to help protect Northwestern Ontario from the impacts of COVID-19.

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