

The Pie Eyed Monk and Lindsay Brewing Company has closed its doors until at least Oct. 4 after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

General manager Erastus Burley said the decision to close the Cambridge Street restaurant and brewery was a difficult one, but the “only responsible, choice.”

“We found out about our employee around one o'clock (on Sept. 24) and I closed the facility down about 45 minutes later,” said Burley, adding an individual he spoke with from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit hadn't requested the action.

“We had to make the right choice for the long-term. . . . We just wanted to do our part.”

The employee, who works part-time in the kitchen, hadn't been at work for about a week as a result of feeling ill. Burley said the individual was encouraged to get tested. Four days later the results were reported positive.

While the health unit is still conducting contact tracing, it was identified that the individual had traveled outside the area, leading the health unit to believe the illness was not contracted in Kawartha Lakes. It also poses no risk to restaurant, brewery or event customers and patrons are not required to be tested or self-isolate.

Burley said the business will remain closed for 10 to 14 days. All 25 culinary and service staff have voluntarily gone for testing. He is also undertaking an extensive cleaning of the building.

“These efforts are part of our response to flattening the curve and assisting in stopping the spread of the virus throughout the City of Kawartha Lakes and surrounding area. Our management team is cooperating with the HKPR health unit and will continue to take whatever steps required to maintain a safe environment for our guests, staff and community,” said Burley in an online statement.

Burley is hoping for good news regarding the test results and looks forward to reopening the doors when it's safe.

When they do open, the business will continue to only offer 50 per cent of seating – physically distanced even on the patio – enhanced cleaning and masks for service staff.

Details on reopening will be posted on the facility's website and social media.

by [Catherine Whitnall](#) ([/kawartha-author/Catherine-Whitnall/1e0e6ae6-eb40-4a3c-a4a9-cc957bf70779/](https://kawartha-author/Catherine-Whitnall/1e0e6ae6-eb40-4a3c-a4a9-cc957bf70779/))

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