

# Remote Location. Unique Challenges.

Medcor's onsite clinic at this remote mine reduce offsite visits and recordables.

## Background

This remote gold mine is located 125 kilometers north of La Ronge, Saskatchewan, and accessible via plane. A 60-kilometer ice road transports equipment and large supplies from January through March. Commercial production at the underground mine began in 1991, with the facility producing gold doré bars that are then shipped to a third-party refinery.

Most workers keep a schedule of two weeks living and working at the mine, two weeks off. Up to 250 people are onsite at any time, and the facility operates 24/7.

## Situation

The client previously contracted with other onsite occupational healthcare providers but was dissatisfied with their higher-than-necessary rates of offsite referrals — all of which required arranging air transportation from the mine — and prescriptions being written. They were looking for an onsite provider that would handle as much worker care onsite as possible, referring offsite only when necessary.

Providing care and guidance for all aspects of workers' health, including offering routine vaccinations, providing blood pressure checks and facilitating employee wellness efforts, was important to the client when they went looking for a new provider in 2021.





## Solution

Medcor operates one onsite clinic at the mine, staffed by one registered nurse who works 12-hour shifts, seven days a week. That nurse works for two weeks at a time, and another is rotated in for a two-week shift, with each living and working at the mine. A full-time wellness advocate also lives and works at the mine, supporting a variety of wellbeing programs.

The onsite clinic not only offers 24/7 access to a skilled healthcare professional for work-related injuries and illnesses, but someone who can handle basic primary care functions — including flu vaccinations, onsite drug testing and more. Because workers are not allowed food or water inside the gold processing area due to carcinogenic dust, kidney issues and bladder infections resulting from dehydration are common.

This worksite requires specialized services to meet the challenges unique to working underground, including managing knee injuries, audiometric testing, spirometry and lead testing, all of which help manage potentially dangerous conditions for workers.

## GET IN TOUCH

Medcor offers occupational health and safety services to companies across North America, including onsite and mobile clinics, safety training and mental health and wellness. **Learn more** about how we can help you improve worker health and reduce costs.

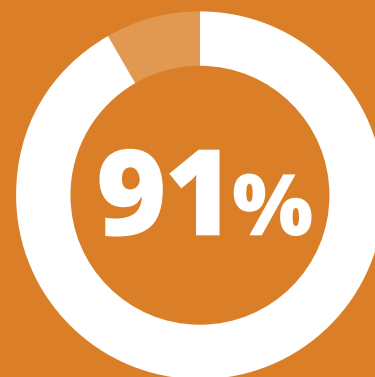
## Outcome

Having a medical professional onsite to determine what worker injuries are resolvable by first aid and what issues require offsite transport has decreased the client's medical costs and reduced their rates of recordables. Providing easily accessible wellness programs such as flu clinics and smoking cessation programs — backed by a dedicated Medcor wellness advocate — has helped workers stay healthier overall, preventing further work-related illnesses and injuries and improving worker productivity.

Workers have come to rely on their access to the onsite nurse, with more than 300 blood pressure screenings, over 150 discussions of personal health concerns and more than 50 drug and alcohol tests arising from non-work-related encounters.

Supporting worker mental health is also a focus for the client, with virtual mental health appointments available to workers both onsite and when they are at home. Living at the mine for two weeks at a time can take a toll on workers' mental, physical and emotional health, and the slate of services offered at the Medcor onsite clinic has helped workers stay healthy and boosted morale.

## THE MEDCOR ADVANTAGE



of employees involved in work-related injuries or illnesses were able to return to work without additional referrals

OVER  
**180**

drug and alcohol tests completed onsite

OVER  
**53%**

of encounters were not work-related