

Memo- Cancellation of Medical Directive

Authority to test for the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19)

| Memorandum | |
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| To | All Ontario Region Nursing Stations and Health Centres with Treatment |
| From | Maurica Maher, MD, MSc (Tox), MSc (Epi), FRCPC Regional Public Health Physician Health Protection Unit First Nations and Inuit Health Branch: Ontario Region, ISC |
| Date | April 9, 2020 |
| Regarding | CANCELLATION of Medical Directive: "Authority to test for the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19)" CD-STI-002 dated 20 March 2020 |

CANCELLATION of Medical Directive

"Authority to test for the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19)"

Background/rationale: The original intent of this directive was to ensure that First Nation community members would get rapid access to COVID-19 testing if needed. Presently, this need is being met in nursing stations and health centres with treatment by community physicians and nurse practitioners.

There has also been confusion around who to test with evolving COVID-19 case definitions and testing guidance. More complicated clinical assessment is now required based on updated testing guidance.

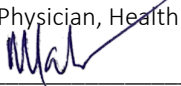
Furthermore, with changes to the reporting of negative results, the ordering provider (community physician or nurse practitioner) will have access to negative results through the online portal and will be better positioned to follow up testing results.

If the situation with regards to testing changes, we will reconsider the best way to proceed at that time.

Action: The medical directive titled "Authority to test for the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19)" CD-STI-002 dated 20 March 2020 is **cancelled** effective immediately.


Approving Physician(s)/Authorizer(s)

Dr. Maurica Maher, MD, MSc(Tox), MSc (Epi), FRCPC
Regional Public Health Physician, Health Protection Unit

Signature: 
Date: April 9, 2020

Administrative Approvals

Shari Glenn, NP (PHC),
Director of Nursing

Signature: 
Date: April 9, 2020