

CD Unit COVID-19 Weekly Teleconference

March 31, 2020

10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

Dial-in: 1-877-413-4781 Access Code: 377 0869

We apologize for technical difficulties many are experiencing in accessing teleconference lines.

COVID-19 in Ontario

- Renewal of the provincial state of emergency
 - Renews previous orders
 - Continue physical (previously called social) distancing and self-isolation if unwell without waiting for testing
 - New guidance around no gatherings of more than five people, with exceptions for households of more than five people and funerals of ten
 - Ministry of Health (MOH) recommends anyone over 70 years of age self-isolate due to increased severity of disease and complications seen in older people
- New case definition from the province
 - Clarification of swab requirements
 - Simplification of lab confirmation
 - Elimination of repeat testing to consider someone a resolved case to come off of home self-isolation (repeat testing remains for some people)
- New provincial Public Health management document
 - Update to case-contact management, including lengthening of time prior to symptom onset for contact tracing to 48 hours

Guidance Documents for Nurses

- There continues to be changes to information. Please check the Ministry's website regularly for the most up to date information, including case definition and guidance documents <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- For lab information that is up-to-date please visit <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>
- Changes to Onehealth website: onehealth.ca – click on the Ontario website

FNIHB Activities

- Messaging sent out on the PPE process with reminder to ensure forms are completed with accuracy and contact information. Any incomplete forms will delay the process:
 - Time of delivery is approx. 2-7 days from the time it is approved. You will be receiving a notification when the process is approved by national office
 - Once PPE is delivered, please follow up with the recommended steps outlined within the confirmation email the requestor sends prior to shipment
 - PPE vigilance: ensure it is in a secure location or place that is frequently monitored as thefts have been reported

- Updated tools to assist in screening patients for covid-19 and self-isolation/quarantine information are available
- There has also been a self-screening tool created for nurses and health care workers, which a community can use for all other workers to self-screen prior to going into the community
- A new general inquiry email and phone line have been set up for community leadership. Please send any COVID-related emails (including PPE) to sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca. For nursing practice guidance and case and contact management, continue to contact your NPC, CD team
- The CD unit is receiving a large volume of calls and emails related to COVID-19, the response may be delayed – please check Onehealth, the Ministry of Health and PHO websites for updated documents while awaiting response
- The CD unit will be sending out some of the MOH's guidance documents as well as a summary for public health follow-up of cases – please see revised Appendix 1 to 5 documents
- **The new URL Ontario OneHealth website is now <https://www.onehealth.ca/on>**
 - It is no longer <https://www2.onehealth.ca>

Measures to Prevent and Control the Spread of the Virus

- Importance of physical (previously called social) distancing
 - Stay home as much as possible
 - Go out only for essential reasons like grocery shopping or to seek medical care; minimise these essential trips as much as possible
 - If you are out, keep a distance of 2 metres between people
- If you feel sick you can self-isolate at home before and without being tested
 - Take the Ministry of Health (MOH) [self-assessment tool](#) if you are worried you might have COVID-19, or if you have respiratory symptoms
 - Seek health care for worsening or severe symptoms

Specimen Collection and Handling

- Information on testing – including the requisition and swab types accepted – can be found on the PHOL website <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>
- The guidelines for healthcare workers who are assessing someone with possible COVID-19 symptoms is droplet and contact precautions, unless they are performing an aerosol generating procedure such as intubation, in which airborne precautions would be advised in addition to routine precautions

Contact

- General inquiry email/phone set up for community leadership
 - COVID19 General Inquiry Email: sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca

Next Teleconference:

Tuesday April 7th, 2020

10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

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