

## **CD Unit COVID-19 Weekly Teleconference**

April 7, 2020

10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

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

### **COVID-19 in Ontario**

- Continuation of the renewed provincial state of emergency
  - Renewed previous orders
  - Continued public health protection advice – with warmer weather and upcoming holiday weekend important to keep measures in mind
    - Continue physical (previously called social) distancing and self-isolation if unwell without waiting for testing
    - 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

### **Guidance Documents for Nurses**

- Information continues to evolve and so documents continue to be updated based on new information
- Both the province and the ministry's websites are regularly updated, and include information on the status of COVID-19 in Ontario and guidance documents
  - Province
    - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
  - Ministry
    - [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx)
      - New guidance for mental health and addictions and how to talk to children about the pandemic are posted to the Ministry website
- Public Health Ontario also provides up-to-date information and information summaries <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>
- For lab information that is up-to-date please visit the PHOL website <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>
- The Onehealth website is also updated regularly: [onehealth.ca](http://onehealth.ca) – click on the Ontario website

## **FNIHB Activities**

- New ministry self-assessment tool that can be done by anyone wondering if they should seek medical attention before calling Public Health or telehealth
- Reminder to ensure PPE 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 delivery company on delivery time as we do not have control over it
  - PPE vigilance: ensure it is in a secure location or place that is frequently monitored as thefts have been reported
- 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](mailto:sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca). For nursing practice guidance and case and contact management, continue to contact your NPC, CD team
- New change to Onehealth website: [www.onehealth.ca](http://www.onehealth.ca) (previously [www2.onehealth.ca](http://www2.onehealth.ca)) – click on the Ontario website

## **Contact**

- Probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 are diseases of public health significance and have to be reported, please call your CD nurse
- Complete *Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Form* (Appendix 1 and 5) available on Onehealth, fax completed to 807-343-5348 (Confidential)
- For after hours reporting, contact the EPHO after hours phone line at **1-855-407-2676**
- As with other reportable cases that would be of concern to the community, confirmed COVID-19 cases are also to be notified to your NIC/Health Director or designate, to communicate with Chief and Council. Confidentiality of the patient must be maintained
- If there is no Health Director or designate, NIC/CHN can also communicate with Chief and Council
- Chief and Council are welcome to contact our public health physicians if they have any questions or concerns following notification of a confirmed case.

## **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
- Wash your hands frequently, do not touch your face with unwashed hands, and practice cough and sneeze etiquette
- 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>
- PPE 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](mailto:sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca)
- To report a probable or confirmed case during business hours (08:00 – 16:00 ET), contact the CD Nurses at the office first, then their mobile:
  - Innocent Magocha: (office) 613-948-2219, (mobile) 613-697-2478
  - Susan Conway: (office) 613-954-1934, (mobile) 613-954-1934
  - After Hours: EPHO after hours phone line: **1-855-407-2676**