

CD Unit COVID-19 Weekly Teleconference

April 14, 2020

10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

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

COVID-19 in Ontario

- Second renewal of the provincial state of emergency renews previous orders
- Continued public health protection advice recommends that with warmer weather it is very important to keep public health protection advice in mind:
 - Continue physical (previously called social) distancing
 - Stay home if you are not an essential worker
 - Stay home except for running essential errands such as medical appointments or for groceries/medication (minimise these trips where possible)
 - Stay 2 metres from other people if you have to go out
 - If an individual has potentially been exposed to the virus then it is important to self-isolate if feeling unwell, as well as self-quarantine (also often called self-isolation)
- Closure of a community, or restriction of entry, is not sufficient to prevent spread as people (like essential workers) may still be going in and out. Physical distancing and other measures must also be considered
- COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update (08 April 2020) from the Ministry
 - Remote/Isolated/Rural/Indigenous communities remain a priority
 - Testing should be offered to individuals in Remote/Isolated/Rural/Indigenous Communities who are experiencing one of the following symptoms
 - Fever (Temperature of 37.8°C or greater); OR Any new/worsening acute respiratory illness symptom (e.g. cough, shortness of breath (dyspnea), sore throat, runny nose or sneezing, nasal congestion, hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing); OR Clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia
 - Atypical presentations should be considered, particularly in elderly persons (atypical symptoms listed in appendix of document)
- A new point-of-care test called Spartan Cube was authorised by Health Canada on 11 April 2020 – may become available in communities in late April or early May. As more information becomes available, it will be shared.

Guidance Documents for Nurses

- COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update (08 April 2020) from the Ministry:
 - Remote/Isolated/Rural/Indigenous communities remain a priority
 - Testing should be offered to individuals in Remote/Isolated/Rural/Indigenous Communities who are experiencing one of the following symptoms:
 - Fever (Temperature of 37.8°C or greater); OR Any new/worsening acute respiratory illness symptom (e.g. cough, shortness of breath (dyspnea), sore throat, runny nose or sneezing, nasal congestion, hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing); OR Clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia.
 - Atypical presentations should be considered, particularly in elderly persons
 - http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_covid_testing_guidance.pdf
- Information continues to evolve and 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
- 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](https://onehealth.ca) – click on the Ontario website

FNIHB Activities

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

In the Event of a Probable or Confirmed COVID-19 Case

- During regular hours, CHNs are to contact their assigned CD Nurse while also ensuring NIC/Nurse Manager or NPC are notified as per routine practice
- For afterhours, over the weekend, or during a holiday, contact the EPHO afterhours line at **1-855-407-2676**
- Public Health Management Forms for COVID-19 Cases are available on [Onehealth.ca](#):
 - [Appendix 1 - COVID-19 Follow-up Form](#)
 - [Appendix 2 - Routine Activities Prompt Worksheet Case](#)
 - [Appendix 3 - Daily Clinical Update Acute Care](#)
 - [Appendix 4 - Client Monitoring Tracking Record](#)
 - [Appendix 5 - Contact Tracing Worksheet](#)

The CD Team will help CHNs navigate through a probable or confirmed case as needed, along with the required forms or any additional questions related to COVID-19

Communication with Chief and Council Regarding a Positive COVID-19 Case Within the Community

- CD Nurse contacts CHN (or NIC), CHN (or NIC) then contacts the Health Director (HD) or Chief
- If no CHN available (or unknown), then CD Nurse to contact HD
- If no HD or unavailable, then FNIHB-OR Public Health Physician to contact Chief directly

**No client identifiers are to be provided to the Health Director or Chief and Council to ensure client confidentiality*

COVID-19 Screening Tool for Health Centres

- An optional screening tool developed health centres in screening individuals for COVID-19 was emailed out last week to CHNs and can be found on [Onehealth.ca](https://www.onehealth.ca)

FNHIB-OR: PPE Resource

- The attached document summarizes the recommendations of PPE for COVID-19, based on:
 - Public Health Ontario: Updated IPAC Recommendations for Use of PPE for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19, March 25th, 2020
 - WHO: Rational Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), March 19th, 2020
 - FNIHB Medical Client Transport Directive March 23rd, 2020
 - PHAC Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19); Prevention and Risks April 7th, 2020
 - Use of masks within community is also highlighted within the document
- This resource was emailed to CHNs last week and is available online at [Onehealth.ca](https://www.onehealth.ca)

OneHealth

- Please note: The new URL Ontario OneHealth website is now: <https://www.onehealth.ca/on>
 - It is no longer <https://www2.onehealth.ca>

Health Facility Contact for Urgent CD Cases

- An email has been sent to Health Directors inquiring who the CD team can contact afterhours within the community in the event a positive communicable disease (CD) case requires follow up outside of regular business hours of 0800-1600 EDT M-F, such as evenings, weekends, and Statutory holidays
- Health facilities are asked to identify point of contacts for the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB)- Ontario Region CD Team to reach when they are unable to reach the subject individual
- A form was attached within the email sent, and when completed it can be emailed to Ashley.milks@canada.ca

Contact

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

Next Teleconference:

April 21, 2020
10:00 EST / 09:00 CST
Dial-in: 1-877-413-4781 **Access Code:** 377 0869