

CD Unit COVID-19 Weekly Teleconference Notes

March 9th, 2020

10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

1-855-288-0982 Access Code: 95 29 25 79

COVID-19 in Ontario

- COVID-19 continues to circulate in Ontario with increased cases being reported, including cases identified as variants of concern (VOC)
- [Toronto, Peel and North Bay-Parry Sound Public Health Regions Returned to Strengthened COVID-19 Response Framework](#)
 - A revised [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) has been provided to outline restrictions
- The [Janssen Johnson & Johnson](#) COVID-19 vaccine was [authorised](#) 05 Mar 2021 for those 18 years of age and older
 - It is a [viral vector-based](#) vaccine
 - There are now four COVID-19 vaccines authorised in Canada

Public health measures like watching your distance, washing your hands, and wearing a mask remain very important even as we see increased vaccination

- Avoid crowded places, close contact, and closed spaces
- Avoid gathering, and keep 2 m distance from those not in your household
- Wear a [face covering](#) (cloth mask, non-medical mask) when running essential errands
- Stay home and self-isolate if you are sick, feel unwell, or [have symptoms](#) of COVID-19

Guidance Documents

The [Ministry website](#) provides guidance documents and information about COVID-19 (last updated 05 Mar 2021)

A number of documents were updated Fri 05 Mar 2021

Testing

- COVID-19 [Provincial Testing Guidance Update](#) V11.0 (05 Mar 2021)
 - Updates include the following
 - Information on molecular, antigen, and serology POCT
 - Alignment to reflect recent changes to LSCCLA and HPPA
 - Revised list of Targeted Testing Groups
 - Updated Antigen POCT section, and
 - Minor changes to Schools/Childcare section
- COVID-19 [Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) V13.0 (05 Mar 2021)
- COVID-19 Guidance: [Considerations for Privately Initiated Testing](#) V2.0 (05 Mar 2021)
- COVID-19 Guidance: [Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing](#) V3.0 (05 Mar 2021)
 - Updates include the following
 - Alignment with changes to LSCCLA
 - Additional information on Specimen Collection
 - Additional information on how to access a POC test and conduct the test
 - Updates on Organizational Responsibilities, and
 - Minor updates to Reporting Requirements
- [Flow Charts](#) V3.0 (05 Mar 2021) for
 - Rapid (POC) Molecular Test (RMT) Testing Guidance (e.g. ID NOW, GeneXpert)
 - Rapid (POC) Antigen Test (RAT) Testing Guidance (e.g. Panbio, BD Veritor)

Case and Contact Management

- [Appendix 9: Management of Individuals with Point-of-Care Testing Results](#) V3.0 (05 Mar 2021)
 - Updates include
 - Table 1 & 2 updates
 - Alignment to reflect changes to legislation for point-of-care testing, and
 - Minor changes to Public Health Management section

The [COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information and Planning Resources website](#) provides most of the resources shared around COVID-19 vaccine for Ontario (last updated 05 Mar 2021)

- [Consent for Collection of Sociodemographic Data](#) (05 Mar 2021)
 - Outlines permission to voluntarily collect the following information
 - Race
 - Ethnic or cultural origins
 - Total household income
 - The number of family members living in the household
 - The first language learned at home in childhood and still understood, and
 - Which official language (English or French) the person is most comfortable in

Further Information

The Public Health Ontario ([PHO](#)) website posts evidence summaries, scientific paper reviews, fact sheets and further information

The [Ontario government website](#) provides screening tools and information for businesses, organisations, and the public

The [Government of Canada website](#) also includes general COVID-19 information and vaccine information

COVID-19 FNIHB-OR Epi Report

- As of March 8th, 2021 at 4:00 pm we have 1,117 First Nations confirmed cases that is 110 more cases than last week. We currently have 154 active cases in 25 communities.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been 8 deaths. Two deaths occurred in the first wave and six occurred recently.
- In total, 17,508 tests have been reported to FNIHB-OR.
- A grand total of 43,293 tests (including tests done in SLFNHA and WAHA areas).
- As of March 8th, 2021, Ontario reported an increase of 1,631 cases of COVID-19. The number of hospitalizations decreased to 626. The number of patients in ICU is relatively the same from 280 to 282. The number of patients on a ventilator increased slightly from last week from 175 to 184. Ontario region has 13 active cases that are hospitalized and 5 cases are in ICU.
- As of March 8th, 2021, an estimated 912,486 COVID vaccine doses have been administered in Ontario. Daily doses administered is 21,882. Over 273,676 people are fully vaccinated.
- 75 out of 116 (65%) communities reported holding influenza immunization clinics. A total of 7,712 Influenza vaccines have been administered (11.2% coverage rate within reporting communities). Last Flu season we had a 9.1% coverage rate within reporting communities.
- To date, no influenza cases have been reported to FNIHB this flu season. Flu Watch reports that Influenza testing continues at seasonal levels. To date, there is no evidence of community circulation of influenza. (Flu Watch, Week 8)

CD Unit Activities

COVID Vaccine:

- As Dr. Freeman mentioned, the Janssen vaccine has been approved for use in Canada on March 5, 2021 for individuals 18 years of age and older.
 - We will await Ministry guidance for the use of the vaccine.
 - It is a single 0.5ml dose
 - Side effects include pain at the site of injection, body chills, feeling tired and feeling feverish

Contact

General inquiry email set up for community leadership

- COVID19 General Inquiry Email: sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca

Next teleconference:

Tuesday Mar 16th at 10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

Dial-in Number 1-855-288-0982 or 1-416-915-6530

Access code: 95 29 25 79