

## CD Unit COVID-19 Weekly Teleconference Notes

Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

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

Note: On/after Dec 1, the Dial-in number will be **1-855-288-0987** Access Code: **95 29 25 79**

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### COVID-19 in Ontario

- COVID-19 continues to circulate in Ontario with increased cases being reported
- On 20 Nov the Ontario government updated [Ontario Taking Further Action to Stop the Spread of COVID-19](#)
  - The province is moving certain public health unit regions to new levels, which includes moving Toronto and Peel into Lockdown
  - The framework has been updated to include details about lockdown measures
- [Ontario Extends COVID-19 Orders.](#)
  - The Ontario government has extended all orders currently in force under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 (ROA) until December 21, 2020

Public health measures like watching your distance, washing your hands, and wearing a face covering remain very important

- 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 where you'll be indoors
- Stay home and self-isolate if you are sick, feel unwell, or [have symptoms](#) of COVID-19
- A free [app](#) is available to inform users if they may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus – you can [learn more here](#)

### Guidance Documents

The [Ministry website](#) was last updated 20 November 2020

- [Case Definition - Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) (20 Nov 2020)
  - **Probable Case** updated to include a person with a preliminary positive result from a Health Canada approved point-of-care assay
    - Positive results issued from point-of-care assays are reportable to public health, and require confirmation
    - Parallel specimens for confirmation through standard laboratory-based testing should be obtained for all point-of-care testing until further evaluation of their test performance
    - Final case status (Confirmed or Does Not Meet Case Definition) should be based on the parallel confirmatory laboratory-based test result; if no parallel specimen is collected, the case status should remain as probable
  - **Confirmed Case of Reinfection** includes a person with a primary and secondary laboratory-confirmed infection with SARS-CoV-2, with time-based or test-based clearance in between the two infections, where genome sequencing indicates that the two SARS-CoV-2 infections either belong to different genetic clades or lineages OR) sufficient single nucleotide variations to correlate with the probability that the two episodes are caused by different viral lineages
- [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update](#) V9.0 (20 Nov 2020)
  - New information on PCR and serology testing under the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act
  - Information on rapid testing
  - New guidance on the appropriate technologies for testing and ensuring all test results performed by a licensed laboratory are entered into OLIS
  - Updated information on targeted testing initiatives and rapid antigen pilot
  - Clarify that testing prior to surgery in high transmission regions applies to settings beyond hospitals
  - Guidance for Priority Populations section removed and embedded throughout document
- [COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) V11.0 (20 Nov 2020)
  - Updated to included information on point-of-care testing
- [COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Privately-Initiated Testing](#) V1.0 (20 Nov 2020)
  - This document is intended for individuals or organisations who choose to participate in private COVID-19 testing outside of the public health care system in Ontario
  - All positive COVID-19 tests performed using a validated test must be reported to the local public health unit
  - Highlights that testing alone is not a sufficient strategy for prevention of COVID-19

- [COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Employer Rapid Antigen Screening Pilot](#) V1.0 (20 Nov 2020)
  - This document is intended for individuals or organisations who choose to participate in the employer rapid antigen-screening pilot project in Ontario, an 8-week pilot for testing asymptomatic workers in different settings
- [Case & Contact Management Guidance Appendix 9: Management of Individuals with Point-of-Care Results](#) (20 Nov 2020)
  - Preliminary positive result issued from a Health Canada approved POC assay should be classified as a probable case
  - Parallel specimens for confirmation through standard laboratory-based testing should be obtained for preliminary positive results from POC assays until further evaluation of their test performance
  - Final case status (Probable, Confirmed or Does Not Meet Case Definition) should be based on the parallel confirmatory laboratory-based test result, and the timing of that specimen relative to the initial specimen collection

### **COVID-19 FNIHB-OR Epi Report**

- As of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we have 183 First Nations confirmed cases and 7 non-First Nations confirmed cases. We currently have 13 active cases in 4 communities.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been 2 deaths. The two deaths occurred in the first wave.
- In total, 8,112 tests have been reported to FNIHB-OR.
- A grand total of 27,295 tests (including tests done in SLFNHA and WAHA areas).
- On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Health Units with the largest numbers are: Toronto – 336, Peel – 535 and York Region – 205.
- 12 other health units are reporting double digit increases such as Waterloo Region, Hamilton, Windsor, Halton Region, Durham Region, Ottawa, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, Simcoe Muskoka, Niagara, **Brant County, Thunder Bay** and Middlesex-London.
- 73 out of 116 (63%) communities reported holding immunization clinics. A total of 6,312 Influenza vaccines have been administered (9.2% coverage rate within reporting communities)

### **FNIHB CD Unit Activities**

#### **CD Unit: Survey for COVID-19 Public Health Response within Communities**

- CD Team has developed a quick [survey](#) to collect information on the current status of COVID-19 public health response within communities.
  - The survey questions include areas of need for education, support or resources for community preparedness and response to COVID-19.
  - Information gathered from the survey will help the CD Unit identify areas for development and delivery of education, tools or resources.
- Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6KYBZPS>
- **The survey is being extended until Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
  - To provide a clear understanding of the current status within Ontario region, we ask for only one member from the health facility (i.e. Health Director, CHN, etc.) to complete the survey

### **Updated Appendix 1: SARI**

- Being updated to include a section where a case can be linked to an outbreak and some updates to the symptom section
- This updated form will be available on Onehealth.ca

### **COVID-19 Recommended Public Health Follow up for CHNs**

- Being updated to reflect the recent updates in the guidance documents
- Updated version will be sent out and posted on One Health

### **Contact**

General inquiry email set up for community leadership

- COVID19 General Inquiry Email: [sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca)

### **Next teleconference:**

Tuesday Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

**NEW NUMBER!!**

**Dial-in 1-855-288-0987 or 1-416-915-6530**

**Access code: 95 29 25 79**