

CD Unit COVID-19 Weekly Teleconference Notes

Nov 17th, 2020

10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

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

COVID-19 in Ontario

- COVID-19 continues to circulate in Ontario with increased cases being reported
- On 13 Nov the Ontario government updated its new [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) which had been released 03 Nov
 - [The Response Framework](#) outlines different levels of restrictions or requirements that can be adjusted based on the local situation in a region
 - Local public health units may apply additional measures in their jurisdictions
- On 12 November modelling data was shared
 - Overall indicators (case numbers, test positivity, etc.) are worse but the impact depends on the region

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 12 November 2020

- COVID-19 Guidance: [Hospice Care](#) V2.0 (12 Nov 2020)
 - Includes prevention of transmission and outbreak management sections
- COVID-19 Guidance: [Labour, Delivery and Newborn Care](#) V3.0 (10 Nov 2020)
 - Provides clarification on testing, stating that COVID-19 should be suspected in all pregnant people with unexplained, persistent, fever and testing should be performed; an exception may be in a community with low prevalence with a clear alternate cause for fever
- COVID-19 Guidance: [Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#) V7.0 (09 Nov 2020)
 - Change to 10 days of self-isolation following symptom onset, provided that the person is afebrile and symptoms are improving
 - Highlight of importance of not delaying assessment and treatment of issues that have symptom overlap with COVID-19 but are clinically evident of a different diagnosis
 - Highlight of importance of provision of in-person care when it is essential and for conditions and instances where patients may not benefit from virtual care
 - Reference to documents: Optimising Care Through COVID-19 Transmission Scenarios, COVID-19 Screening tool for Children in School and Child Care, Considerations for Community-Based Health Care Workers on Interpreting Local Epidemiology, and Guidance for Immunisation Services During COVID-19

Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL) has provided updated information on [PCR testing](#)

- Saliva is an acceptable sample for COVID-19 PCR testing in patients in whom testing using another specimen type is not possible/not tolerated – however only a limited number of labs are accepting saliva sample for COVID-19 PCR testing

Public Health Ontario (PHO) uploaded the following *Synthesis* documents recently

- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 and the Pediatric Population](#): An Umbrella Review (04 Nov 2020)
 - Most reviews included in the synthesis were of low quality, so caution is indicated in interpreting results – fever and cough were the most common symptoms; most children experienced mild to moderate severity disease with mortality rates less than 0.4%
- [Vaping and COVID-19](#) – What We Know So Far (02 Oct 2020)
 - Evidence is limited, but it seems COVID-19 is more likely to be diagnosed in those who vape; there is evidence vaping impacts lung function and there is increased hand-to-mouth contact in those who vape which may increase the chance of infection; there is potential for the vapour/aerosol produced by vaping to transmit the virus to those in close proximity

COVID-19 FNIHB-OR Epi Report

- As of November 17th, 2020, we have 169 First Nations confirmed cases and 7 non-First Nations confirmed cases. We currently have 8 active cases in 6 communities.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been 2 deaths. The two deaths occurred in the first wave.
- In total, 8,076 tests have been reported to FNIHB-OR.
- A grand total of 26,889 tests (including tests done in SLFNHA and WAHA areas).
- On November 16th, Ontario reported another 1,487 cases of COVID-19 cases. The 7 day average is at an all time high. The Health Units with the largest numbers are the same: Toronto – 503, Peel – 392 and York Region – 170.
- 11 other health units are reporting double digit increases such as Waterloo Region, Ottawa, Halton Region, Durham Region, Simcoe Muskoka, Hamilton, Niagara, Windsor, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, Southwestern and Grey Bruce.

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 will be open on Friday November 6th and close Friday November 20th
- 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

- SARI form is being updated to include a section where a case can be linked to an outbreak and updates are being made to the symptom section
- This updated form will be available on Onehealth.ca

Contact

General inquiry email set up for community leadership

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

Next teleconference:

Tuesday Nov 24th at 10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

Dial-in 1-877-413-4781 Conference ID: 377 0869

Please Note: On Dec 1st, the teleconference phone number will be changing to

Phone number: 1-855-288-0987 or 1-416-915-6530

Access code: 173 230 7488