

## CD Unit COVID-19 Weekly Teleconference Notes

July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

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

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### COVID-19 in Ontario

- [Emergency orders](#) are renewed to at least 29 July 2020 and the provincial state of emergency continues
- Most of the province moved to [Stage 3](#) on Friday 17 July
  - Most businesses, public spaces, and services are able to [reopen](#) in areas in Stage 3 with some exceptions
    - The following will not yet reopen: amusement parks, water parks, overnight stay camps, dancing at restaurants, karaoke, prolonged contact sports, and buffet style food services
  - Gatherings of up to 50 people inside and 100 people outside will be possible in Stage 3 with physical distancing in place but religious services, weddings and funerals will remain at 30% capacity of the venue
- [Seven more regions of the province will move to Stage 3](#) this Friday 24 July
  - The following three regions will remain in Stage 2:
    - Peel Public Health;
    - Toronto Public Health; and
    - Windsor-Essex County Health Unit.
- It is still advised to **avoid crowded places, close contact, and closed spaces** even as places reopen

**Public health measures like physical distancing, hand hygiene, wearing a face covering, and respiratory etiquette remain very important**

- Avoid crowded places, close contact and closed spaces as much as possible
  - Stay home except for essential errands and outdoor exercise
  - Stay 2 metres from other people when you go out
    - Opening your '[social circle](#)' to up to 10 people may be considered – these are people you can have close contact with
  - Wear a [face covering](#) (non-medical mask) when running essential errands where you'll be indoors – some areas of Ontario require you to wear a face covering when inside public places
- Stay home and self-isolate if you are sick, feel unwell, or have symptoms that could be COVID-19

### Ministry Guidance Documents

The [Ministry website](#) is updated regularly.

- Update to Visits at Long-Term Care Homes – outlines how to support continued gradual resumption of visitors to LTC from 10 June 2020 direction
  - Effective 15 July 2020 outdoor visits may occur with two visitors at one time, following restrictions and guidance
  - Effective 22 July 2020 indoor visits may occur with two visitors at one time, following restrictions and guidance

## COVID-19 FNIHB-OR Epi report

- As of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we have 61 confirmed cases. Of those cases, 58 or 95% have resolved. We currently have one active case.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been 2 deaths.
- In total, 3,528 tests have been reported to FNIHB-OR. 609 tests (17%) are pending and 2,858 tests (81%) are negative.
- A grand total of 5,908 tests (including 1,427 tests from SLFNHA and 953 tests from WAHA).

## FNIHB CD Unit Activities

- No current updates from the CD Unit
- To align with changes from the Ministry of Health, tools and resources from the CD Unit will be updated and shared through the various communication platforms, such as email and the Weekly COVID call

## Immunization During a Pandemic

- Important to continue and advocate for the continuance of immunization programs in the community
  - Some of the risks of COVID-19 transmission at immunization visits can be mitigated by [basic precautions](#) to protect both healthcare providers and the public.
    - child and parent screening prior to visits,
    - [non-medical masks](#) for parents,
    - physical distancing between patients at the clinic,
    - scheduling considerations, and
    - personal protective equipment for healthcare providers
    - IPAC practices between patients and for clinic flow
- Defer immunizations in symptomatic individuals to reduce the risk to the public and health care providers if they have COVID-19
  - Screen prior to immunization appointment, can be done virtually over the phone
  - Those suspected or investigated with COVID19 should not attend immunization appointments during their isolation period
- If PEP is needed for VPD (e.g. rabies for dog bites), should not be delayed, use the appropriate PPE and take precautions in clinic to reduce risk to others
- Offer immunizations combined with health visits
- Offer multiple vaccines at each visit if due
- Children 0-2 years old are priority
- Children 4-6 yrs can be deferred but prioritized before school-entry
- School-based: unknown what the school environment will look like
  - plan catch up in clinic by appointment
  - if school opening, plan ahead with school stakeholders on how to safely hold clinic and ensure school protocols being followed
    - dedicated room, waiting room with 2 m distance between students
    - avoid crowded hallway/waiting area by limiting number of students immunizing at the same time (e.g. 5 students at a time by alphabetical order vs whole class)
    - Will likely need more visits to school to catch-up students
    - Consents may be delayed or obtained through the phone instead
  - Eligibility criteria for students being reviewed by Ministry of Health
    - FNIHB-OR raised concerns of interrupted immunizations during pandemic and ability to immunize students in timely manner. Ministry of Health is reviewing eligibility criteria

### Influenza Season

- Encouraged to plan for influenza season vaccinations to decrease burden of influenza and potential co-infection with COVID-19
- Ensure Adequate amount of supplies
- List of high-risk individuals to target based on priority (e.g. elderly, immunocompromised, co-morbidities)
- Assess appropriate space for immunization clinics in fall/winter
  - Consider drive through clinics, home visits
  - Consider scheduling to reduce risk (i.e. elderly and immunocompromised clinics in the morning)
- Influenza vaccine details will be shared once received from the Ministry of Health
- Resources on immunizing safely during COVID-19:
  - Onehealth: [\*Immunization Services during COVID-19 Response\*](#)
  - PHAC: [\*Interim guidance on continuity of immunization programs during the COVID-19 pandemic\*](#)
  - Immunization Support Line 1-866-297-3577

### 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)

### Next teleconference:

Tuesday July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 EST / 09:00 CST  
Dial-in 1-877-413-4781 Conference ID: 377 0869