

CD Unit COVID-19 Weekly Teleconference

April 21, 2020

10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

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

COVID-19 in Ontario

- Renewal of the provincial state of emergency to at least 12 May 2020
- Continued public health protection advice – modelling information shared by province that measures are working but we need to continue them to keep control of COVID-19
<https://files.ontario.ca/moh-covid-19-modelling-potential-scenarios-en-2020-04-20.pdf>
 - Continue physical (previously called social) distancing
 - Stay home if you are not an essential worker
 - Stay home except for essential errands like to a medical appointment or for groceries/medication (and minimise these trips)
 - Stay 2 metres from other people if you have to go out
 - Importance of self-isolation if unwell, and self-quarantine (also often called self-isolation) if there was a potential exposure
- 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 – also need physical distancing and other measures
- COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update V2.0 (15 April 2020) from the Ministry
www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_covid_testing_guidance.pdf
 - 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)
 - Addition of specific priority populations, including those with frequent contact with the healthcare system
- A new point-of-care test called Spartan Cube was authorised by Health Canada on 11 April 2020 – as we have more information we will share

Guidance Documents for Nurses

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 - Atypical presentations should be considered, particularly in elderly persons
 - Addition of specific priority populations, including those with frequent contact with the healthcare system
www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_covid_testing_guidance.pdf
- Information continues to evolve and so 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 – 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

National Wake and Funeral document

- **UPDATED:** Practical Guidance for Funerals, Wakes or Memorials During the Current Covid-19 Pandemic Situation created by FNIHB-National was sent out earlier this week
- Ministry of Health- COVID-19 Guidance: Funeral and Bereavement Services (Version 1 – March 29, 2020: **No changes were made to this document**)
This document can also be found online at:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/funeral_bereavement_guidance.pdf

In the event of a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case:

- During regular hours, CHNs are to contact their assigned CD Nurse
- 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](https://onehealth.ca), including:
 - [Appendix 1 - COVID-19 Follow-up Form](#)
 - [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

Additional messaging sent out within the past week includes:

- Public Health Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario (April 15, 2020)

Ministry of Health provides various guidance documents

- Include various topics such as:

<u>Health Sector Resources</u> Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting Guidance for Acute Care Guidance for Home and Community Care Providers Outbreak Guidance for Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) Guidance for Long-Term Care Homes Long-Term Care Homes COVID-19 Screening Checklist Guidance for Paramedic Services Guidance for Independent Health Facilities Community Labs and Specimen Collection Centres Guidance for Community Pharmacies Guidance for Occupational Health and Safety Guidance for Consumption and Treatment Services Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update	<u>Guidance for Other Sectors</u> Guidance for Food Premises Guidance for Industry Operators Guidance for Emergency Childcare Centres Guidance for Funeral and Bereavement Services Guidance for Temporary Foreign Workers Guidance for Homeless Shelters Guidance for Group Homes and Co-Living Settings <u>Mental Health Resources</u> Talking to Children About the Pandemic Resources for Ontarians Experiencing Mental Health and Addictions Issues During the Pandemic
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Contact

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

Next teleconference: Tuesday April 28st at 10:00 EST / 09:00 CST
1-877-413-4781 Conference ID: 377 0869