

## **CD Unit COVID-19 Weekly Teleconference**

March 24, 2020

10:00 EST / 09:00 CST

**We apologize for past repeated cancellations due to technical difficulties that many are experiencing in accessing teleconference lines.**

### **COVID-19 Situation in Ontario**

- Continue to see an increase in cases in Ontario, however, no cases in First Nations communities in Ontario at this time
- For most up-to-date information see <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- As of 11:59 pm tonight, March 24, 2020, Ontario ordered the mandatory closure of non-essential workplaces/businesses
- Continue to recommend social distancing and self-isolation if unwell without waiting for testing
- If tested, when interpreting results, the test can be negative for COVID-19 but positive for other respiratory viruses including seasonal coronavirus

### **Guidance Documents for Nurses**

- There continues to be changes to information. Please check the Ministry's website regularly for the most up to date case definition, guidance documents; and PHO for lab testing guidance <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- For lab information that is up-to-date please visit <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

### **FNIHB Activities**

- Messaging sent out on the PPE process with reminder to ensure forms are completed with accuracy and contact information. Any incomplete forms will delay the process:
  - Time of delivery is approx. 2-7 days from the time it is approved. You will be receiving a notification when the process is approved by national office
  - Once PPE is delivered, please follow up with delivery company on delivery time as we do not have control over it
  - PPE vigilance: ensure it is in a secure location or place that is frequently monitored as thefts have been reported
- FNIHB is currently in the process of creating tools to assist nurses in screening patients for covid-19 and self-isolation/quarantine information
- We have also shared a self-screening tool for nurses and health care workers, which the community can use for all other workers to self-screen prior to going into the community

- A new general inquiry email and phone line have been set up for community leadership. Please send any COVID-related emails (including PPE) to [sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca). For nursing practice guidance and case and contact management, continue to contact your NPC, CD team
- The CD team is receiving a large volume of calls and emails related to COVID-19, the response may be delayed – please check Onehealth, the Ministry of Health and PHO websites for updated documents while awaiting response

### **Updates on Measures to Prevent and Control the Spread of the Virus**

- Importance of social distancing is to stay home as much as possible and go out only for essential reasons like grocery shopping or to seek medical care
- If you are out, keep a distance of 2 metres between people
- If you feel sick you can self-isolate at home without being tested unless you need to seek health care for worsening or severe symptoms
- Available self-assessment tool <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0>

### **Specimen Collection and Handling**

Information on testing – including the requisition for and swab types accepted – can be found on the PHOL website <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

### **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)