

# SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &  
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for  
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 17, June 3, 2003

The government of Ontario is committed to providing the information healthcare providers require in order to deliver the services needed to manage SARS. As part of these ongoing communications, the government is issuing a SARS bulletin on a regular basis to inform healthcare professionals of new directives and other pertinent information.

**This bulletin provides an update on new directives and communications and does not replace or amend these documents.**

## DIRECTIVES

- June 2<sup>nd</sup> self-monitoring Q&As (French & English)
- May 31<sup>st</sup> communique including general information, as well as information about 1A placements
- May 31<sup>st</sup> communique to acute care facilities about online reporting of the daily SARS situation report
- May 31<sup>st</sup> directive to acute care facilities in the GTA
- May 30<sup>th</sup> directive to acute care facilities in the GTA
- May 30<sup>th</sup> communique regarding emergency department activity, LTC capacity, SARS assessment clinics and a public service announcement about limiting visits to emergency departments

## KEY INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The following SARS assessment clinics are open:

- **General site of the Scarborough Hospital**  
The General site clinic of the Scarborough Hospital opened on June 2, 2003. Its hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **Oshawa site of Lakeridge**  
The Oshawa clinic opened on May 31, 2003. Its hours are from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## NEWS

- St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital outpatients and visitors ended home quarantine and hospital staff ended work quarantine on June 2, 2003. The hospital continues to be closed until the quarantine is complete. There are no cases of SARS in the facility.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that it is making polymerase chain reaction (PCR) reagents available to state and Laboratory Response Network laboratories to enable testing for the coronavirus.

## KEY SARS FACTS

- There are 62 probable and nine suspect cases related to the new cluster (reported on or after May 22). These numbers are based on the WHO case definition.
- There is no evidence of public transmission of SARS and the current cases under investigation are linked to the original cluster of cases.
- GTA hospitals are advised to continue heightened infection control procedures and to follow mask fit testing procedures.

## CUMULATIVE CASE STATUS

(As of June 3, 2003)

<b>Probable</b>	<b>212</b>
Suspect	136
Cumulative total	348
Total current cases	71
Discharged	239
Deaths	32

- On June 3, the World Health Organization confirmed, that at this time, they would not issue a travel advisory for Toronto.
- The World Health Organization states that travellers should only consider postponing non-essential travel to the following regions: Beijing, Inner Mongolia, Hebei, Shanxi, Tianjin and Taiwan. It also recommends travellers from Toronto be screened upon exit from these areas.
- Health Canada advises that, effective May 30<sup>th</sup>, the new case definition will be applied retrospectively to the recent cluster of SARS cases first reported to Health Canada on May 22, 2003 in Ontario, and prospectively to all new cases being identified in Canada.

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Ontario

## AFFECTED SITES

- North York General Hospital – April 19- May 23
- St. John’s Rehabilitation Hospital – May 1 – May 22
- Scarborough Hospital, General Division – May 12 – May 23
- UHN Toronto General Hospital ED – May 22
- St. Michael’s Hospital, Neurosurgery Unit – May 15-May 23
- St. Michael’s Hospital, CCU – May 20 – 25
- Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care – May 21-23
- Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – May 22-23
- Lakeridge Healthcare Corporation Bowmanville Hospital – May 24
- West Parry Sound Health Centre – May 23
- Ottawa Hospital General Campus, Emergency Department – May 26 (7:00 p.m. to May 27 7:00 a.m.); May 29 (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
- “Shops on Steeles” Medical Clinic including X-ray and Ultrasound (2900 Steeles Avenue, York Region)
- The World Health Organization has posted a list of areas with recent local transmission. This is available online at <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/areas/>

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Press conferences with the Commissioners of Public Health and Public Security as well as other medical experts continue to be held as needed. Updates and fact sheets will be posted at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca>
- MOHLTC will place additional SARS information advertising in Toronto dailies on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- Potential SARS exposure hotline (recorded message) 1-866-670-3155
- Websites [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca), [www.healthyontario.com](http://www.healthyontario.com)
- SARS operations centre 1-866-212-2272
- Toronto Public Health 416-338-7600
- York Region Health Services Health Connection 1-800-361-5653
- Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000
- SARS hotline - for public general SARS information 1-888-668-4636

## USEFUL NON-MINISTRY LINKS

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention SARS website <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/>
- World Health Organization SARS website <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/en/index.html>
- Health Canada SARS website for health care professionals and the public <http://sars.gc.ca>