

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 18, June 4, 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

- Questions and answers pertaining to income stabilization for physicians were posted on June 3rd on both the dedicated SARS website and the public Ministry website
- A communiqué to non-acute care facilities was issued on June 3rd. This is an enhancement to directive L03-04, issued on May 13th.
- A letter to health care providers was issued on June 3rd.
- Questions and answers regarding patient transfers and the use of masks were issued on June 3rd.

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.
- **North York General Hospital**
 - This clinic opened today (June 3rd). Its hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

NEWS

- The World Health Organization has issued recommended procedures for prevention and management of probable cases of SARS on international cruise vessels. This document can be found at: <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/travel/vessels/en/>
- Health Canada has posted information on enhanced screening procedures for travellers. This document may be found at:

KEY SARS FACTS

- There are 66 active probable cases in hospital.
- Rouge Valley Health System, Centenary site, has lifted its work quarantine. Centenary has also lifted its patient quarantine for those with contact on the 8th floor.
- St. Michael's Hospital has lifted its quarantine measures.
- North York General Hospital has opened a SARS assessment clinic.
- There is no evidence of public transmission of SARS.
- GTA hospitals are advised to continue heightened infection control procedures and to follow mask fit testing procedures.

CUMULATIVE CASE STATUS

(As of June 4th, 2003)

Probable	214
Suspect	136
Cumulative total	350
Total current cases	79
Discharged	239
Deaths	2

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Ontario

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/protection/warnings/sars/backgrounder.html>

- 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>

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>
- An open letter to health care workers from the Hon. Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, was issued today and is available at:
<http://www.newswire.ca/releases/June2003/04/c8923.html>
- MOHLTC is running SARS information advertising in Toronto dailies on June 4th.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Potential SARS exposure hotline (recorded message) 1-866-670-3155
- Websites www.health.gov.on.ca, 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/>