

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 19, June 10, 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

The following SARS directives were issued in recent days:

- A communiqué on personal protective equipment.
- A letter to all Acute Care Hospitals, in Toronto, York and Durham Regions on compliance.
- 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.

KEY INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The following SARS assessment clinics are open:

- **General site of The Scarborough Hospital**
3050 Lawrence Avenue, Toronto
Please proceed directly to the tents near the emergency room entrance.
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. seven days a week.
- **Oshawa site of Lakeridge Health Corporation**
1 Hospital Court, Oshawa
Please proceed to the emergency room.
Hours: 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. seven days a week.
- **North York General Hospital**
4001 Leslie Street, Toronto
Please proceed to emergency department's ambulance bay.
Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. seven days a week

KEY SARS FACTS

- Lakeridge Health Whitby was classified as a SARS Category three hospital on June 9th as a result of potential unprotected SARS exposure within the last 10 days.
- There are currently 64 active probable cases in hospital.
- GTA hospitals are advised to continue heightened infection control procedures and to follow mask fit testing procedures.

CUMULATIVE CASE STATUS

(As of June 10th, 2003)

Probable	226
Suspect	136
Cumulative total	362
Total current cases	73
Discharged	256
Deaths	33

NEWS

- The World Health Organization (WHO) stated that they will not issue a travel advisory for Toronto at this time.

AFFECTED SITES

- Mount Sinai Hospital, Obstetrics Unit – June 4th
- St. Michael's Hospital, Coronary Care Unit – May 20 – 25
- Rouge Valley Health System, Centenary Site – 8th floor – May 21- May 30
- 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/>

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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>

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/>
- 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>