

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 20, June 12, 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 trailers 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

- There are currently 60 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 12th, 2003)

Probable	238
Suspect	132
Cumulative total	370
Total current cases	64
Discharged	273
Deaths	33

NEWS

- The WHO advised on June 11th that it is awaiting further information on cases in other countries that may have been exported from Toronto. The WHO stated that it is "not yet convinced that such cases have been conclusively documented."
- The WHO's international conference on SARS is scheduled for next week (June 17 and June 18) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The conference will include lessons learned from regions including Canada as well as sessions on epidemiology and clinical diagnosis and management.

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AFFECTED SITES

The following are current exposure sites (where transmission has occurred).

- University Health Network Toronto General Hospital (Emergency room) – May 26
- North York General Hospital General Division – May 22 – May 23
- Scarborough General Hospital – May 22 – May 23
- St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital – May 22

To access our list of current potential exposure sites (where there has been no known transmission) please visit our web site at:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca>

- 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>

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>