

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 9, May 7, 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 will be 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.

KEY INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

- Proper mask fitting is a critical component of infection control and is also an occupational health and safety requirement.

DIRECTIVES

- Questions and answers pertaining to directives issued on May 1st (O3-04R) for acute care facilities were issued yesterday.
- A letter to acute care facilities was issued yesterday.
- Please consult your facility administration and organization/college to obtain copies of all directives issued to date.

NEWS

- Health Canada has announced the composition of its National Advisory Group on SARS and Public Health. The group will be chaired by Dr David Naylor, Dean of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Full details may be found at Health Canada's website: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/media/releases/2003/2003_26.htm
- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is holding a webcast May 8th at 1pm EST. This broadcast will provide information to clinicians to increase awareness of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and reinforce concepts of early recognition, diagnosis, and containment. The Director of the CDC, Dr. Gerberding, will speak at the event. Further details may be obtained from <http://www.cdc.gov>

KEY SARS FACTS

- All hospitals have restricted access but there are no facilities currently classified as level 2 or 3.
- All long-term care facilities have restricted access.
- Active cases have declined by 30% in the past 10 days (from 87 to 60).
- Hospitalized cases (probable & suspect) have declined by 38% in the past 10 days (from 69 to 43).
- There are 27 probable and 16 suspect hospitalized cases.
- Discharges have risen by 16% in the past 10 days (from 156 to 181).

CURRENT CASE STATUS

(As of May 7, 2003)

Probable	142
Suspect	123
Cumulative total	265
Total current cases*	43
Healthcare workers [†]	96
Discharged	181
Deaths	23

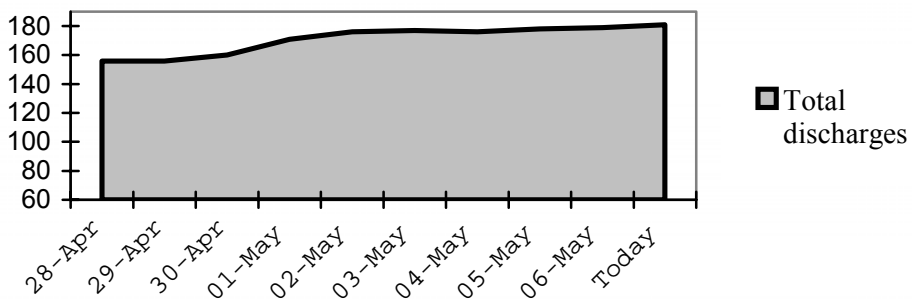
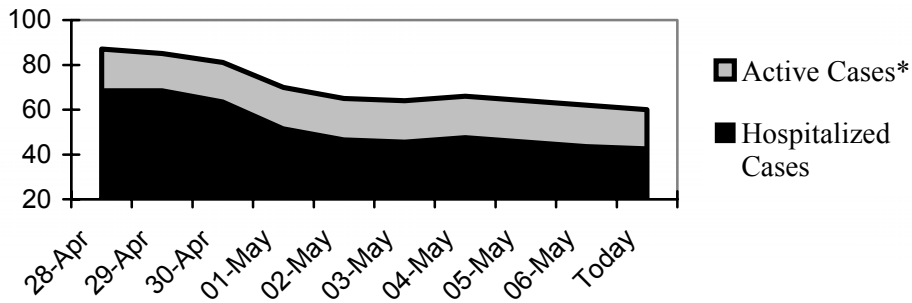
* = in hospital

[†] = probable & suspect

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EPIDEMIOLOGY



* Active Cases includes probable and suspect cases in hospital and at home.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A webcast thanking healthcare providers and featuring Dr. James Young, Ontario's Commissioner of Public Security, will be held this coming Monday at 2pm.
- The webcast of World Health Organization's press conference on the lifting of the travel advisory for Toronto is posted on the dedicated SARS website. Please contact your facility administrator, college or association for access.
- Press conferences with the Commissioner of Public Health, the Commissioner of Public Security and other medical experts continue to be held as needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Websites <http://www.health.gov.on.ca>, <http://www.healthyontario.com>
- Medical information hotline 1-866-212-2272
- 'Hot spots' reporting line 1-866-670-3155 or locally 416-212-0890 (recorded message of potential transmission sites).

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