

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT

April 14, 2020

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

To: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, Midwives
Hospital Infection Control Departments
Hospital Emergency Departments

This document is to replace the updates of March 30 and April 2.

Regional Assessment Centres and Surveillance Program

There will be a time-limited increase in the number of tests conducted for COVID-19 in Timiskaming district as part of a targeted Northern Ontario surveillance program. This will run from April 15-30, 2020. See today's attached press release.

3 Regional Assessment Centres (RAC) will be opening in order to conduct swabbing. The drive-through centre locations and tentative Monday-Friday hours of operation are:

- Heritage North in Kirkland Lake 9 - 1 pm
- Englehart and District Family Health Team 9 - 12 pm
- North entrance of Temiskaming Hospital 10 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 4 pm

Primary care providers may still swab at their clinics, however, we anticipate that the majority of testing will take place at the RACs. Patients should be directed to call THU's COVID-19 call line at 705-647-4305 or toll free at 1-866-747-4305, ext 7 to be screened for testing. Screens will be faxed to the appropriate facility and an appointment will then be made by the RAC for testing.

Updated Guidance on Testing and Clearance

- The quick reference of this updated document can be found [here](#), a hard copy is attached to this update.
- The updated list of possible COVID-19 symptoms includes: cough, fever, difficulty breathing, sore throat/hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing, a loss of sense of smell or taste, fatigue, muscle aches, runny nose, loss of appetite, diarrhea, and nausea or vomiting. An updated Screening Form is attached.
- Swabs should **NOT** be done on asymptomatic patients, including HCWs.
- The high priority groups for testing continue to be hospital inpatients and residents living in LTCH/RH, HCWs/caregivers/first responders, and Indigenous communities. For these groups, fever is defined as 37.8 C or above. The Provincial Testing Guidance Update of April 8, 2020 can be found [here](#).
- Asymptomatic household contacts of a symptomatic patient who is swab-pending should also self-isolate until results are known, whenever possible.
- Asymptomatic household contacts of a symptomatic patient who is not tested should also self-isolate for 14 days, whenever possible.

THU has increased weekend phone coverage and contact tracing. Phone lines will be monitored from 1:00-4:00 pm on weekends. Long weekend coverage will be extended to cover holidays.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Timiskaming Health Unit:

Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

New Liskeard

Tel: (705) 647-4305
Toll Free: (866) 747-4305
Fax: (705) 647-5779

Kirkland Lake

Tel: (705) 567-9355
Toll Free: (866) 967-9355
Fax: (705) 567-5476

After-Hours or Weekend
On-Call Number
(705) 647-3033

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