

IMPORTANT UPDATE AND REMINDERS ON COVID-19

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

There are important new recommendations for PPE use, travel self-isolation, and direction for testing that have released over the last 24 hours.

UPDATED Testing recommendations (see attached)

For COVID-19 testing purposes, the following groups should be tested:

- Symptomatic contacts of confirmed cases, until community transmission is established
- Individuals admitted to hospital with acute respiratory illness
- Health care workers with acute respiratory illness
- Individuals with acute respiratory illness who reside in long term care homes and retirement homes
- Individuals with acute respiratory illness who reside in other institutions and as directed by local public health
- Health care workers as part of a health care institutional outbreaks and as directed by local public health officials
- First Nation Community members living on-reserve with acute respiratory illness
- Symptomatic international travelers (see below)

In light of possible NP swab shortage, consideration can be given to reserve swabs for seriously ill patients.

Symptoms of concern for COVID-19 include fever and/or moderate cough or shortness of breath

UPDATED direction for travelers

The restrictions being placed on travelers are rapidly evolving and frequently subject to change.

All travelers outside of Canada are to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return. They will only require testing if they become symptomatic as above.

At present, there are no indications to test people who have traveled within Canada. The only local caveat is to continue consideration of testing symptomatic attendees within 14 days of the PDAC conference.

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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HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT

March 13, 2020



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PPE recommendations

- Given updated information on COVID-19, Droplet and Contact precautions are recommended for the routine care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Airborne precautions should be used when aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) are planned or anticipated to be performed on patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Here are some reminders to ensure that all public health actions are taken to limit and decrease the transmission of the disease:

1. If a suspect case is swabbed, please fax the THU COVID-19 screening form to 705-647-5779;
2. Provide consistent messaging to patients that THU will contact them within 24 hours to provide follow-up (**please verify patient phone #**);
3. Provide self-monitoring and/or self-isolating instructions to patients as necessary;
4. An updated COVID-19 screening form version 2020-03-13 is attached.