

### **IMPORTANT UPDATE AND REMINDERS ON COVID-19**

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

[www.timiskaminghu.com](http://www.timiskaminghu.com)

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

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

#### **UPDATED Testing recommendations**

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

- Individuals admitted to hospital with acute respiratory illness;
- Travel outside of Canada within 14 days prior to onset of illness;
- Exposure to an identified event within 14 days prior to onset of illness;
- Symptomatic close contact to a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to an impacted area within 14 days prior to onset of illness;
- Symptomatic close contact to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.

PHO will now accept any non-cotton tipped swab in any liquid (non-gel/ solid) media for testing.

This includes the following along with a COVID requisition test as long as the swab is from the nasopharynx:

- Virus culture kit 390081
- Virus culture female 390083
- Virus culture male 390084
- B. pertussis kit 390052

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

#### **UPDATED Direction for travelers and essential workers are being drafted**

#### **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.

# HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT

March 16, 2020



Services de santé du  
**TIMISKAMING**  
Health Unit

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- 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.