

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 11, May 14, 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

- While the Acting Commissioner of York Region Health Services has declared the SARS outbreak in that region over (because more than two ten-day incubation periods have passed since the last reported probable case), the provincial health emergency remains in effect until further notice.
- There are three remaining SARS assessment clinics: Rouge Valley, Queensway and Markham.

DIRECTIVES

- A letter prefacing a series of directives was issued yesterday.
- Directives for providers in community settings and community healthcare agencies (excluding CCACs) were issued yesterday.
- Directives for CCACs were issued yesterday.
- Directives for non-acute care facilities were issued yesterday.
- Directives for acute care hospitals were issued yesterday.
- Directives for acute care hospitals pertaining to high-risk procedures for SARS patients were issued yesterday.
- Please consult your facility administration and organization/college to obtain copies of these and all directives issued to date.

NEWS

- The World Health Organization will hold an international conference on SARS in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on June 17 and 18, 2003.
- Health Canada has issued interim guidelines for prevention and control of SARS, related to air travel. These can be found at: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/sars-sras/ic-ci/sars-mangmtpax_e.html

KEY SARS FACTS

- 20 days have passed since any transmission of SARS in Ontario.
- All healthcare providers are reminded to adhere to infection control, hand-washing and isolation protocols.
- The number of affected individuals continues to drop – there are now 10 people hospitalized, 78% less than 10 days ago.
- Discharges have risen by 15% in the past 10 days (from 178 to 205).

CURRENT CASE STATUS

(As of May 14, 2003)

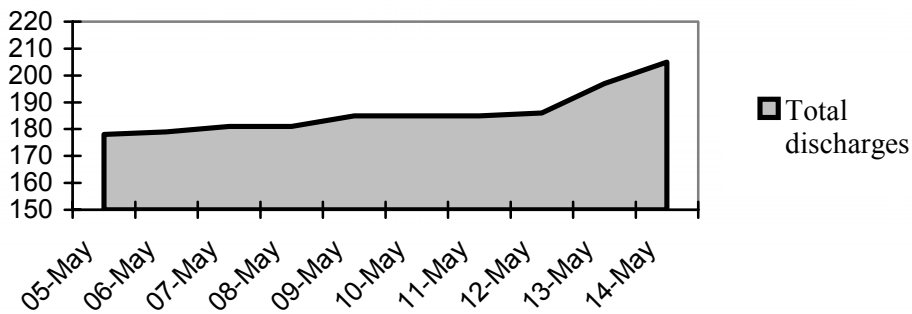
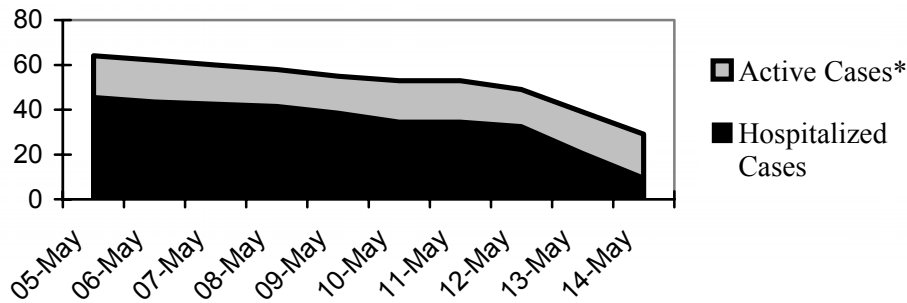
Probable	138
Suspect	120
Cumulative total	258
Total current cases*	10
Healthcare workers [†]	95
Discharged	205
Deaths	24

* = in hospital

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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, was held Monday May 12th at 2pm. It is archived for three months on both the Ministry website and the Canada Newswire website. The URL is <http://webevents.broadcast.com/cnw/SARS>
- 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 www.health.gov.on.ca, 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).