

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care

A newsletter for Healthcare Providers

Issue no. 14, May 28, 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.

DIRECTIVES

- No new Directives have been released today.
- Please contact your facility administrator and college or association to obtain copies of all directives.

NEWS

- The government announced a \$720 million SARS assistance package today which included \$190 million in financial aid for eligible health care employees and physicians, \$400 million in one time funding for exceptional costs to the health care system from SARS and \$120 million annually to implement improvements related to the implementation of the "new normal". The government will also cover 100 per cent of extraordinary costs incurred by GTA and Simcoe municipalities as a direct result of SARS.
- York Region Public Health has closed Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy in Markham today and is contacting everyone who attended between May 21 and May 23. All students and personnel are being quarantined for 10 days as a precaution. www.region.york.on.ca.
- The World Health Organization has tabled a report on SARS at its World Health Assembly. This is available online at: <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/WHA56-48.pdf>. The Assembly also approved a resolution on SARS and a resolution setting a timeline for revising the International Health Regulations, which provide the legal framework for global surveillance and reporting of infectious diseases.
- The provincial government announced an all- star, all-Canadian "Concert for Toronto" at the SkyDome and Air Canada Centre on June 21st as part of the \$128 million plan to promote the province and the City of Toronto as safe tourist destinations. Feature artists include Barenaked Ladies, Avril Lavigne, the Tragically Hip, Sarah McLaughlin, Sum 41, and Our Lady Peace.

KEY SARS FACTS

- There are 12 probable cases in hospital.
 - Durham, Parry Sound, Toronto and York Public Health have reported suspect cases.
 - Currently 50 persons are under investigation.
 - There are 31 cases in hospital.
- St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital is discharging some patients into 10 day self-isolation, in consultation with Toronto Public Health
- Scarborough Hospital, General Division's emergency department is open
- MOHLTC is examining possibilities for SARS Assessment Clinics.
- All GTA hospitals are advised to continue heightened infection control procedures.
- There is no evidence of widespread public transmission of SARS and the current cases under investigation are linked to the original cluster of cases.

CUMULATIVE CASE STATUS

(As of May 28, 2003)

Probable	147
Suspect	145
Cumulative total	292
Total current cases*	31
Discharged	231
Deaths	29

* = in hospital

AFFECTED SITES

- Please see the advertisement in today's daily newspapers and the dedicated SARS website for a listing of potential SARS exposure sites
- Please contact your facility administrator, college or association to obtain documents from this dedicated site
- St. Michael's Hospital reports the following potential exposure periods
 - trauma & neurosurgery (9th floor Cardinal Carter wing) May 14-24
 - cardiac care (7th floor, Bond wing), May 20-24

COMMUNICATIONS

- Press conferences with the Commissioner of Public Health and other medical experts continue to be held as needed.
- MOHLTC has placed SARS information in all Toronto dailies today, and will continue providing print advertising as needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Potential SARS exposure hotline (recorded message) 1-866-670-3155
- Websites www.health.gov.on.ca, www.healthyontario.com
- SARS operations centre 1-866-212-2272
- Toronto Public Health 416-338-7600
- York Region Health Services Health Connection 1-800-361-5653
- Public - Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000
- SARS hotline - for public general SARS information 1-888-668-4636

