

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care

A newsletter for Healthcare Providers

Issue no. 8, May 5, 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

- Healthcare workers are advised to take the simple precaution of remaining at home should they feel ill.
- A communication pertaining to visits on Mother's Day was issued on May 2nd.
- A communication about mask testing services to obtain the best fit for specific facial features was issued on May 2nd.

DIRECTIVES

- No new directives were issued today.
- Please consult your facility administration and organization/college to obtain copies of all directives issued to date.

NEWS

- The U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has requested capability statements and letters of interest from investigators, specifically for antibody preparation, treatments or vaccines for SARS. This complements vaccine research currently being conducted by several biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. The NIAID website is <http://www.niaid.nih.gov>
- Recent studies of the molecular biology of the SARS virus are available online from the American Association for the Advancement of Science at: <http://www.sciencemag.org/feature/data/sars/>
- The current issue of the *Lancet* details recent experience in Hong Kong. <http://www.thelancet.com> (subscription is required).

KEY SARS FACTS

- All hospitals have restricted access but there are no facilities currently classified as level 2 or 3.
- All long-term care facilities have restricted access.
- Active cases have declined by 40% in the past 10 days (from 106 to 64).
- Hospitalized cases (probable & suspect) have declined by 45% in the past 10 days (from 84 to 46).
- Discharges have risen by 27% in the past 10 days (from 140 to 178).

CURRENT CASE STATUS

(As of May 5, 2003)

Probable	144
Suspect	121
Cumulative total	265
Total current cases*	46
Healthcare workers [†]	90
Discharged	178
Deaths	23

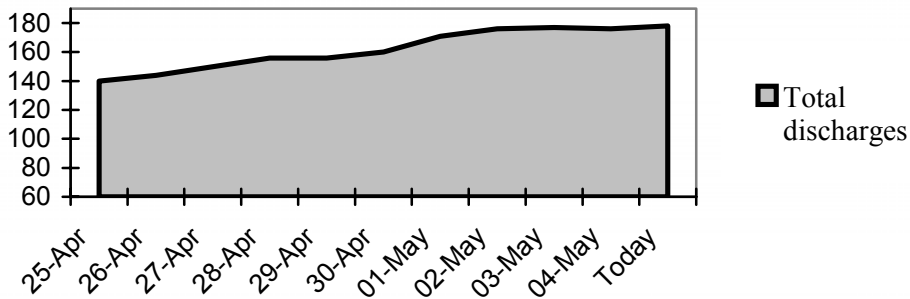
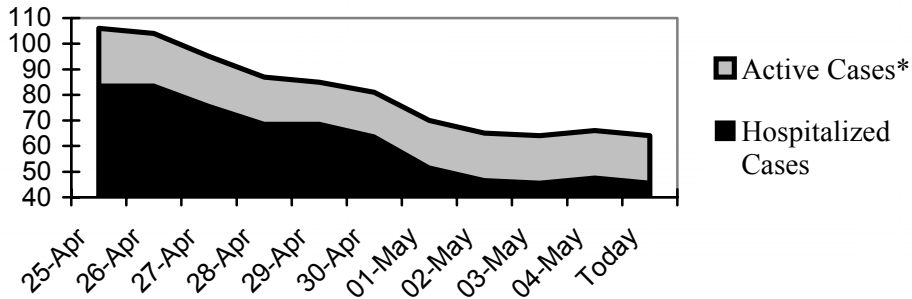
* = in hospital

[†] = probable & suspect

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EPIDEMIOLOGY



* Active Cases includes probable and suspect cases in hospital, at home and cases under investigation at home.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 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 <http://www.health.gov.on.ca>, <http://www.healthyonario.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).

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