

March 15, 2020

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Key messages:

- No confirmed COVID-19 cases locally
- When in doubt, self-isolate
- COVID-19 testing is being prioritized and is not required for the entire population
- BCHS Assessment Clinic is open (not walk-in)
- Patients: CALL AHEAD if COVID-19 concern

ASYMPTOMATIC RETURNING TRAVELLERS

Asymptomatic travellers returning from travel outside of Canada are not eligible for COVID-19 testing.

At this time, the Government of Canada is asking all travellers coming into the country to self-isolate for 14 days.

SURVEILLANCE UPDATE: COVID-19

As of 1030 on March 15, there are 142 COVID-19 cases in Ontario. There are no confirmed cases in Brantford Brant.

SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE

The following groups need to self-isolate and are considered a probable case of COVID-19:

- Fever over 38 C and/or new or exacerbation of a chronic cough AND any of the following within 14 days prior to onset of illness:
 - Have travelled to an impacted area or been in close contact with a confirmed or probable case or;
 - Been in close contact with a person who has an acute respiratory illness and has travelled to an impacted area.

Additional self-isolation criteria:

- Those who have recently travelled to Italy, Iran and Hubei, China are asked to self-isolate even if asymptomatic.
- Any children who have travelled outside of Canada are required to self-isolate for 14 days upon return.

COVID-19 TESTING CRITERIA

Updated Ministry testing guidelines include the following groups:

- Symptomatic contacts of confirmed cases
- 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 or retirement homes
- Individuals with acute respiratory illness who reside in other institutions and as directed by local public health officials
- Health care workers as part of a health care institutional outbreaks as directed by local public health officials
- First Nation Community members living on reserve with acute respiratory illness

Individuals not falling under these groups, but meeting the probable case criteria, will be recommended to self-isolate without having testing completed for COVID-19 and will be considered a probable case and be reported to the Health Unit.

The Brantford Brant Health Professionals Update is distributed to physician offices in the region.

Please reproduce copies for each physician in your practice.



Brantford Brant Health Professionals Update

March 15, 2020

COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRE AT BCHS

Beginning March 14 at 0900, the Brant Community Healthcare System opened an assessment centre for non-emergent, non-acute patients presenting with potential COVID-19 related acute respiratory infection.

It is located at the D-wing entrance and open Monday-Friday 0630-2100 and on weekends 0900-2100.

Please note: the BCHS Assessment Centre is not a walk-in clinic. Referrals can be made from primary care based on the testing criteria (i.e., through telephone screening). Call 519-751-5818 for more information.

WHO TO CALL AND WHEN

Residents have been advised of the following if they have concerns about exposure to COVID-19 or have new symptoms related to COVID-19.

- Call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000
- Call Brant County Health Unit at 519-753-4937
- Call their health care provider
- Call 911, if there is an emergency
- If planned to go to the emergency department, call ahead to 519-751-5818

It is recommended that all automated phone and email messaging at primary care facilities direct patients who are concerned about COVID-19 exposure to Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

IPAC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PPE

Public Health Ontario has released updated IPAC recommendations for use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for care of individuals with suspect or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Droplet and Contact precautions are recommended for the routine care of patients with probable 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 probable or confirmed COVID-19.

PPE SUPPLY

Health care providers facing immediate challenges with their PPE supply levels (less than 10 days supply) can email the Ministry at EOCLogistics.MOH@ontario.ca

MORE INFORMATION

The Brant County Health Unit updates information regularly for health care providers on their website:

<https://www.bchu.org/healthpro-coronavirus>

The Brant Community Healthcare system is updating information regularly on its website:

<https://www.bchsys.org/en/covid-19.aspx>