

March 27, 2020

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Key messages:

- 4 lab confirmed COVID-19 cases locally
- New quick reference guide on testing and clearance – now based on clinical assessment vs case definition
- Brantford Brant Primary Care Council is working with Emergency Physicians at BGH on COVID response, with guidelines available at www.brantoht.ca/covid-19
- Consider changes in your practice for virtual care and physical distancing

- Hospitalized patients admitted with respiratory symptoms
- Symptomatic members of remote, isolated, rural and/or Indigenous communities

**COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRE OPEN
AT CIVIC CENTRE**

Starting March 25, a COVID-19 Assessment Centre is open at the Civic Centre in Brantford. Operating hours are 1100 to 1900, seven days a week.

SURVEILLANCE UPDATE: COVID-19

As of 1030 on March 26, there are 858 COVID-19 cases in Ontario. In Brantford Brant, there are 4 Lab confirmed cases, and 363 lab tests have been ordered, including 266/445 patients visiting the COVID-19 Assessment Centre.

**COVID-19 QUICK REFERENCE PUBLIC HEALTH
GUIDANCE ON TESTING AND CLEARANCE**

Testing for COVID-19 should be based on clinical assessment, and not based on the case definition.

Where shortage of testing supplies, the following will be prioritized:

- Symptomatic health care workers and staff in health care facilities
- Symptomatic residents and staff in long-term care facilities and retirement homes
(continued in right column)

There is still a COVID-19 Assessment Centre at the Brantford General Hospital D-wing, open from 0800 to 1600, seven days a week.

Patients requiring testing and further clinical assessment should be directed to call the COVID-19 Hotline 519-751-5818.

At this time, the Civic Centre location is being prioritized for community members and the site at BGH for hospital staff, physicians and inpatients.

The volume of patients at the Civic Centre site are evaluated daily to determine whether hours need to be adjusted.

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

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BRANTFORD BRANT PRIMARY CARE COUNCIL

The Brantford Brant Primary Care Council consists of leaders of primary care practices from across Brantford Brant. This group is working closely with Emergency Physicians at the Brant Community Healthcare System on responding to COVID-19.

For clinical guidelines, COVID-19 general practice tips, or information on accessing virtual mental health supports for your patients, visit:

www.brantoht.ca/covid-19

For documents that are password protected, the p[REDACTED]

VIRTUAL CARE

It is recommended that all healthcare professionals implement a system for virtual or telephone consultations to support physical distancing. For instructions on how to register for OTN, visit www.brantoht.ca/covid-19

PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

Good practices for physical distancing:

- Asking patients to wait in their vehicles
- Spacing charts in waiting rooms two metres apart
- Providing virtual/phone consultation options
- Ensuring active and passing screening is conducted

PHONE LINE TO PUBLIC HEALTH FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

The Health Unit has set up healthcare provider specific line for COVID-19 related questions or concerns. This line can be reached by calling (519) 753-4937 and then dialing ext. 468. Please do not share this extension with the public as it is meant to exclusively serve healthcare providers.

COVID CARE CENTRE AT BGH

To prepare for increases in COVID-19 patients requiring hospital level care, BCHS has set up a triage, assessment and care space for COVID-19 patients at the Brantford General Hospital. This space is adjacent to D-wing and extends into Lower Level 1 E-wing including day surgery areas, conference rooms and an auditorium. This clinic space is not yet open. More communication will come to this group if/when the COVID CARE CENTRE opens.

ONTARIO EXPANDS COVERAGE FOR CARE

Ontario is waiving the three-month waiting period for OHIP coverage.

Ontario will cover the cost of COVID-19 services for uninsured people who do not meet the criteria for OHIP coverage.

These measures will ensure that no one will be discouraged from seeking screening or treatment for COVID-19 for financial reasons. More information is available [here](#).

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>

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