

COVID-19: Update #17

Updated: Provincial Testing Guidance & Reference Document for Symptoms
Updated: Quick Reference Guidance on Testing and Clearance
Updated: Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes
Updated: Directive #2 for Community Health Care Providers
Updated: COVID-19 Guidance: Primary Care Providers in Community Settings

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse Practitioners, EMS, Designated Officers, Midwives, Family Health Teams, Pharmacies, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN, Beausoleil First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, Rama First Nation, Wahta First Nation, Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Hospices

Date: June 3, 2020

The rate of new cases in Simcoe Muskoka has been on a decreasing trend for the last two weeks. Our percent positivity rate of COVID swabs have decreased from a peak of about 5% to 1%, vs provincially from about 10% to 2%. The most current case counts for laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Simcoe Muskoka District Health (SMDHU) region are available at [Simcoe Muskoka Health Stats](#)ⁱ.

The SMDHU has created a new resource entitled "[Tested! Now What?](#)"ⁱⁱ which provides instructions to patients on next steps following having a COVID-19 test completed.

As of June 3, 2020, SMDHU will no longer be coordinating swab pick-up or delivery **for the purposes of asymptomatic surveillance in Long-Term Care or Retirement Homes**. We will however continue to support and coordinate sample pick-up for all symptomatic residents and asymptomatic roommates for the purposes of outbreak prevention and control.

Updated: Provincial Testing Guidance & Reference Document for Symptoms

As of May 28, 2020, the [provincial testing recommendations](#)ⁱⁱⁱ have been updated to include:

1. Guidance on asymptomatic, risk-based and close contact testing:
 - Individuals who are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their employment, including essential workers (e.g., health care workers, grocery store employees)
 - People who are concerned that they have been exposed to COVID-19. This includes people who are contacts of or may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case.

High Risk Contacts:

- Asymptomatic close contacts of a confirmed case with a high risk exposure should be recommended for testing for COVID-19 as soon as possible after identification of the case and within 14 days from their last exposure.
- If the test result is negative, asymptomatic contacts must remain in quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to the case. If they test negative and the contact becomes symptomatic, they should be re-tested.



Lower Risk Contacts:

- If the exposure was lower risk, and an individual was not directly identified as a high risk contact by public health, the client is recommended to self-monitor for 14 days from last exposure and be tested within 14 days from their last exposure. They do not need to be quarantined.
 - If they test negative and the contact becomes symptomatic, they should be re-tested.
2. Testing prior to a scheduled (non-urgent/emergent) surgery:
 - For areas with **low community transmission**, testing prior to a scheduled surgical procedure is **not required**. SMDHU currently has low community transmission.
 3. Information on contact-based testing in Long-Term Care, Retirement Homes and hospitals
 4. Enhanced contact-based testing in Congregate Living Settings, Workplaces and Community Settings

The [COVID-19 reference document for symptoms](#) ^{iv} was also updated to include additional language on how multisystem inflammatory vasculitis may present in children.

Updated: Quick Reference Guidance on Testing and Clearance

The [COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) ^v has been updated (May 28, 2020). Updates include:

- Changes RE: testing and clearance of asymptomatic individuals
- All cases may be cleared by a non-test based approach (generally, 14 days after onset of symptoms)
- Test based approaches to clearance are not routinely recommended
- Health care workers (HCWs) should follow isolation and clearance with a non-test based approach unless they have required hospitalization during the course of their illness, in which case a test based approach is preferred.

Updated: Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes

The [CMOH Directive #3](#) ^{vi} has been revised to provide additional direction on hospital transfers to retirement homes and long-term care homes, testing within 24 hours of new admissions and re-admissions, minimizing work locations of volunteers and contractors, and sharing of infection prevention and control assessment results and reports.

Updated: Directive #2 for Community Health Care Providers

The [CMOH Directive #2](#) ^{vii} has been amended to reflect the gradual restart of all deferred and non-essential and elective services carried out by health care providers. The revised Directive was distributed along with the following accompanying document: [COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart](#) ^{viii}

Updated: COVID-19 Guidance: Primary Care Providers in Community Settings

The [COVID-19 Guidance: Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#) ^{ix} was updated to include:

- Expanded guidance for in-person care for essential visits
- Expanded guidance on testing and specimen collection, including hyperlinks to COVID-19 virus test requisition and assessment centre locator
- Additional details on occupational health and safety, including summary of required personal protective equipment (PPE) precautions, and infection prevention and control guidance

There are a number of other resources and documents available through our Health Professional Portal at www.smdhu.org/hportal as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#) ^x and the [Government of Ontario](#) ^{xi}

For further healthcare worker information regarding COVID-19 or to report a suspect or confirmed case of COVID-19, please contact the Infectious Diseases Team at (705) 721-7520 extension 8809 during business hours (Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) or after hours at 1-888-225-7851.

Hyperlinks

- i Simcoe Muskoka Health Stats: <http://www.simcoemuskokahealthstats.org/topics/infectious-diseases/a-h/covid-19>

- ii Tested! Now what? : (http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/COVID-/2020-06-02-tested_now-what---patient-handout_aoda-web.pdf?sfvrsn=0)

- iii Provincial Testing Recommendations:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_covid_testing_guidance.pdf

- iv COVID-19 reference document for symptoms:
http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_reference_doc_symptoms.pdf

- v COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance:
http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/COVID-/2020-06-02-tested_now-what---patient-handout_aoda-web.pdf?sfvrsn=0)

- vi CMOH Directive #3: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/directives/LTCH_HPPA.pdf

- vii CMOH Directive #2: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/directives/RHPA_professionals.pdf

- viii COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart:
<https://www.oha.com/Bulletins/Operational%20Requirements%20for%20Health%20Sector%20Restart%20May%2026%202020.pdf>

- ix COVID-19 Guidance: Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting:
http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_primary_care_guidance.pdf

- x Public Health Ontario: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>

- xi Government of Ontario: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx.