

**Friday, March 13, 2020**

## INFO SOURCES

HDS will be diligent in our response to COVID-19 to ensure all staff, physicians, patient advisors and volunteers are supported with the latest information, practices and procedures needed to keep you safe and prepared to provide high-quality care to the HDS community.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. We have implemented a number of measures to provide you with the latest information:

1. HDS participates in local daily calls with Public Health.
2. We participate in weekly calls with all hospitals within the HNHB LHIN.
3. We have internal daily command centre meetings at HDS so staff are readily informed.
4. Communication updates will be distributed shortly after new information is made available.

As of March 12, with latest evidence from Public Health Ontario and the World Health Organization (WHO) based on 2.5 months of data, it has been determined that COVID-19 is transmitted through droplets and person-to-person contact. This means it is not air borne.

## OFF-SITE MEETINGS

Effective immediately, we are limiting all off-site work meetings to keep our teams well and to reduce potential spread of infections. Specifically:

- Replace off-site meetings with virtual meetings using teleconferences and video conferences when possible.
- Do not attend speaking events, meetings or conferences. This includes colleges, universities or other large gatherings for work.

## MEETINGS AT HDS

- When meeting in person, try to maintain a two-metre (6-foot) distance from other participants.
- Keep large group meetings to a minimum if the distance above cannot be maintained.

## COMMUNITY COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRES

Within Niagara, it is expected that during the week of March 16-20, two testing/assessment centres will begin operations:

1. Niagara Falls, potentially by Monday, March 16.
2. St. Catharines, potentially by Friday, March 20.

Specific locations are not yet available, but will be shared once known.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

- Since all public gatherings are being discouraged, as a precautionary measure to keep everyone safe, the Saturday worship service has been canceled until further notice.
- Roman Catholic Sunday mass is canceled, but communion will be distributed to patients in their rooms should they wish to receive it.

## TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, TRAVEL INSURANCE, MEDICAL COVERAGE

### WORK-RELATED TRAVEL

- No work-related travel should be scheduled.
- Travel for essential patient care is acceptable (screening requirements to be strictly adhered to).
- If not already cancelled by organizers, any booked work-related travel should be canceled.
- Please speak with your manager if you have questions about your specific situation.

### PERSONAL TRAVEL

- The Public Health Agency of Canada has identified the following countries as a level 3\* risk:  
1) China      2) Iran      3) Italy      (\*Level 3 is “avoid all non-essential travel.”)
- Other affected areas with COVID-19 risk are:  
1) Japan      2) South Korea      3) Hong Kong      4) Singapore
- Beyond the above countries, and further to the direction of the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA), ANY and all international travel is discouraged, including that to the United States.
- **Avoid ALL cruise trip travel.**
- You are asked to register with Occupational Health via email or at extension 84211 prior to embarking on ANY international travel – including any trips to the United States – so that the Hospital has the necessary information to respond if the COVID-19 case definition is updated in response to changing circumstances.
- Please be advised that circumstances are changing very rapidly:
  - You may be required to self-isolate or be quarantined including from areas that are not now currently identified as requiring those measures.
  - You may not be offered the opportunity to return to Canada on a government-organized repatriation.
  - You could be responsible for costs of repatriation.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE AND MEDICAL COVERAGE

- There may be implications, for both trip cancellation and/or out-of-country medical coverage.
- You are best to carefully check coverage issues, but any out-of-country travel is not recommended.
- As of today, and again this may be subject to further restrictions, our travel insurance carrier at HDS, Green Shield, has indicated:
  - That for those who travel to an area affected by a travel advisory, or travelling on ANY cruise ship, “any medical claims related to the condition(s) for which the advisory was issued will not be eligible, and extensions to travel coverage beyond the maximum days will not be considered if you are stranded due to quarantine.”

## SUMMARY OF PPE RECOMMENDATIONS

This guidance is intended to inform minimum expectations for PPE.

For every patient and/or patient environment encounter, apply the Four Moments for Hand Hygiene: (<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-hand-hygiene.pdf?la=en>)

Setting	Individual	Activity	Type of PPE or procedure
<b>Healthcare Facilities - Inpatient facilities</b>			
Patient room	Healthcare workers	Providing direct care to patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19, including nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab collection	Droplet and Contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
		Aerosol-generating medical procedures performed on suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients	Airborne, Droplet and Contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal-checked)</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> <li>• Negative pressure room, if available</li> </ul>
	Environmental service workers	Entering the room of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19	Droplet and Contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
	Visitors	Entering the room of a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19  Visitors should be kept to a minimum	Droplet and Contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>

Setting	Individual	Activity	Type of PPE or procedure
Other areas of patient transit (e.g., wards, corridors)	All staff, including healthcare workers	Any activity that does not involve contact with patient suspected or confirmed COVID-19	Routine practices and Additional Precautions based on risk assessment.
Triage	Healthcare workers	Preliminary screening not involving direct contact	<p>If able to maintain spatial distance of at least 2 m or separation by physical barrier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No PPE required</li> </ul> <p>Otherwise, droplet and contact precautions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>Isolation gown</li> <li>Gloves</li> <li>Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
	Patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19	Any	<p>Maintain spatial distance of at least 2 m or separation by physical barrier.</p> <p>Provide surgical/procedure mask if tolerated by patient.</p> <p>Patient to perform hand hygiene.</p>
Administrative areas	All staff, including healthcare workers	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No PPE required</li> </ul>

Setting	Individual	Activity	Type of PPE or procedure
<b>Healthcare Facilities – Ambulatory and outpatient facilities</b>			
Consultation room/area	Healthcare workers	Physical examination of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19	<p>Droplet and Contact precautions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>Isolation gown</li> <li>Gloves</li> <li>Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>

Setting	Individual	Activity	Type of PPE or procedure
	Patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19	Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide surgical/procedure mask if tolerated.</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene</li> </ul>
	Environmental service Workers	After and between consultations with patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19	Droplet and Contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
Waiting room	Patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19	Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide surgical/ procedure mask if tolerated.</li> <li>• Immediately move the patient to a single patient room or separate area away from others; if this is not feasible, ensure spatial distance of at least 2 m from other patients.</li> </ul>
Administrative areas	All staff, including healthcare workers	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No PPE required.</li> </ul>
Triage/Reception	Healthcare workers	Preliminary screening not involving direct contact	If able to maintain spatial distance of at least 2 m or separation by physical barrier: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No PPE required.</li> </ul> Otherwise, Droplet and Contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/ procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
	Patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19	Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain spatial distance of at least 2 m or separation by physical barrier.</li> <li>• Provide surgical/procedure mask if tolerated.</li> </ul>

Setting	Individual	Activity	Type of PPE or procedure
<b>Other settings</b>			
Home Care	Healthcare worker	Visiting clients/patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19	Droplet and Contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/ procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
Long-term care home	Healthcare worker	Providing direct care to suspect or confirmed COVID-19 residents, including nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab collection	Droplet and contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/ procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
	Healthcare worker	Providing CPAP and/or open suctioning to suspect or confirmed COVID-19 resident.	Droplet and Contact precautions using a N95 respirator when providing CPAP. Manage in single room with door closed. Keep the number of people in the room during the procedure to a minimum.
	Environmental service workers	When entering the room of a resident suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19	Droplet and contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/ procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
	Administrative areas	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with resident suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No PPE required.</li> </ul>
	Visitors	Entering the room of a suspect or confirmed COVID-19 resident  Should be kept to a minimum	Droplet and contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/ procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>

## ACCESS TO PPE

- Effective immediately, the pandemic room is locked and under video surveillance.
- Access to PPE can only be made with authorization from:
  - Jennifer Hansen, Chief Nursing Officer
  - Sandy Robinson, Manager of Inpatient Nursing/Rehabilitation
- We are well stocked.
- Distribution will be on an as-needed basis.
- Control measures are in place to manage and protect supplies.

## REMINDER ABOUT DAY-TO-DAY

Given the global situation and our mobile population, Niagara Region Public Health and their partners are actively working to plan for any potential local spread. They also recommend the following simple-but-powerful ways to protect yourself and others from getting sick:

1. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
2. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
3. Avoid touching your face.
4. If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve.
5. Stay at home when you are sick.

## OUR COMMITMENT

HDS is committed to protecting the health and safety of our employees, patients, physicians, students, volunteers and patient advisors.

We are actively monitoring the situation, taking necessary precautions and planning for any developments.

We will continue to update you as things change.