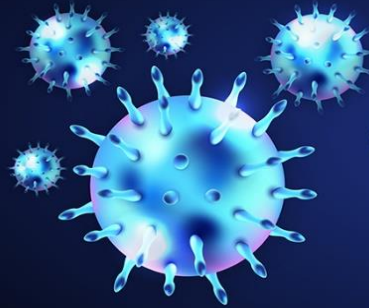




Thursday, April 2, 2020



# HDS CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 BULLETIN

## HDS STATS RELATED TO COVID-19

As always, the safety of our staff, physicians and patients is paramount. In order to keep you apprised of the statistics related to COVID-19 in our facility, our bulletins will now include this chart.

Currently Suspected COVID-19	Total Suspected Cases Since March 1	Total Swabs Sent Out for Testing	Negative Results	Positive Results
0	4	4	4	0

As of April 2, 2020, we are pleased to report that we have ZERO COVID-19 cases (staff or patients).

## OHA MEDIA STATEMENT REGARDING SHORTAGE OF PPE IN ONTARIO

**TORONTO, April 1, 2020 /CNW/** - On behalf of Ontario's 141 public hospitals, the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) thanks the Government of Canada and Government of Ontario for ongoing actions to help ensure Ontario hospitals are prepared to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. The urgent and repeated pleas to Canadians to stay home and to maintain physical distancing, as well as the allocation of financial resources to ensure that hospitals and other health providers have the financial resources needed to operate during a potential surge in COVID-19 cases, is truly appreciated.

As the number of Ontarians requiring acute care for COVID-19 rises sharply, the OHA is extremely concerned that many Ontario hospitals are running low on personal protective equipment (PPE), particularly masks.

For several months the OHA has been supportive of Ontario government efforts to measure, evaluate and safeguard materials and infrastructure, particularly personal protective equipment. Ontario hospitals have been communicating directly with the Ministry of Health, Ontario Health and their Shared Service Organizations and Group Purchasing Organizations (SSOs/GPOs) to source and acquire PPE while also

exercising conservation strategies to safeguard supply, as directed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health in Ontario.

While the OHA understands there is unprecedented global demand and supply chain disruption, Ontario hospitals are now at a critical juncture. **Many hospitals are running low on supply of PPE, particularly masks. On behalf of Ontario hospitals, the OHA calls on both levels of government to clearly and specifically inform hospitals on when new PPE supplies will be delivered to individual organizations.**

The OHA calls on the Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and their governments, to work unceasingly to ensure that new supply is provided immediately to Ontario's hospitals, long-term care facilities, nursing homes and other essential health services providers. These urgent actions are needed to ensure the safety of our province's dedicated health care workers who are working tirelessly to provide life-saving care to a growing number of Ontario's most vulnerable patients.

**- Anthony Dale, President and CEO,  
Ontario Hospital Association**

## CALL OUT FOR PPE

As the news release from OHA states, hospitals are reaching a critical junction with PPE supplies, and HDS is no different. Large donations from Brock University and Niagara College have gone to Niagara Health due to the urgency of acute care needs. We have been receiving smaller donations from many gracious people in the community, and we are seeking more.

We appreciate help from you to build our supply by reaching out to anyone you know who might be able to help such as:

- Dental offices
- Medical offices who may be seeing limited patients and may have supplies to share
- Environmental services companies
- Construction companies
- Nail salons
- Air filtration companies
- Businesses altering their production to produce PPE

**We're all in this together, and we certainly appreciate you going above and beyond in this matter!**

## PPE FOR REPROCESSING / REUSE

In an effort to develop innovative approaches to conservation of PPE, Ontario Health is aggressively exploring processes for the sterilization of used surgical and N95 masks. **As a result, and as set out below in the memorandum from Ontario Health, HDS will be collecting all internally-used surgical and N95 masks to be stored in biohazard bags.** A process will be rolled out throughout the facility in the near future to ensure that appropriate recycling receptacles are in place.

*Date: April 2, 2020*

*To: Ontario Hospitals*

*From: Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health*

*Re: Conserving N95 masks, PPE for reprocessing/reuse*

Conservation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a key part of our work to ensure we can protect all our healthcare workers. This is a logical next step as part of contingency planning for the anticipated surge in COVID-19 cases - and is an addition to the overall management of our supply chain activities.

Evidence supports that there are various methods of retaining, sterilizing, reprocessing and reusing PPE, including N95 masks. Ontario Health is working with various partners throughout our system to determine the best approach to implement these conservation methods. We will continue to explore other advanced technologies.

To support this work and while we finalize our recommendations, we recommend that all organizations refrain from disposing of N95 masks and surgical masks and use biohazard bags to store the masks for potential reprocessing.

More details will follow on best practices for organizations to implement sterilization of N95 masks, an approach which supports our conservation efforts consistent with supporting a safe work environment.

## TEMPORARY FREE PARKING AT HDS

At HDS, we recognize the financial strain the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on families in our community. To mitigate this financial impact, there soon will be free parking at HDS for staff, physicians and those visitors who are allowed in the building under exceptional circumstances.

We would like to sincerely thank ParkLink for working on the logistics to facilitate this arrangement so quickly. This temporary measure will be in place very soon. Payroll deductions for parking will cease effective next pay.

Once again, thank you for all the excellent work you're delivering during this turbulent time. You are going above and beyond each day to support our patients and each other.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Some other reference material:

- [Niagara Region Public Health](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada information on Coronaviruses](#)
- [Government of Ontario - Wuhan Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#)

## OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT

- We continue to be deeply committed to keeping our patients and each other safe.
- We continue to monitor this ever-changing situation with our health partners, adding necessary precautions as appropriate. Much like our health partners, we are acting on the best advice of the Province's Chief Medical Officer of Health and other leading public health officials.
- Thanks for your ongoing co-operation and tireless dedication.

[#WeAreHDS](#) [#PlankTheCurve](#) [#FlattenTheCurve](#) [#TogetherIsStronger](#) [#WeAreInThisTogether](#)