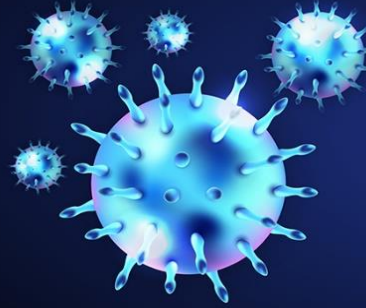


Thursday, March 19, 2020



## HDS CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 BULLETIN

### MAINTAINING A SAFE AND ACTIVE WORKFORCE

Hospitals have received further direction from the Ministry of Health regarding self-isolation for staff and physicians in healthcare. The collective primary goal is to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure that we all maintain an active workforce and best protect all staff, physicians, volunteers, patients and visitors.

### TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

As communicated on March 16, 2020, and as further reinforced by the Government of Canada and the Ontario Minister of Health, **all non-essential travel outside of Canada shall cease** until further notice.

### RETURNING TO WORK AFTER TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF CANADA

For all staff and physicians returning from travel outside of Canada and who are:

#### SYMPTOMATIC

- Do not return to work. Stay home and self-isolate.
- Contact Niagara Region Public Health at 905-688-8248 ext. 7019 or toll-free at 1-888-505-6074.
- Call Occupational Health at 905-685-1381, extension 84211.
- Follow the direction provided by Public Health and Occupational Health regarding COVID-19 self-isolation, testing, monitoring and planning your return to work.
- Staff should also notify their manager, and physicians should notify the Chief of Staff.

#### ASYMPTOMATIC

- The Ministry has now asked that those who have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days to self-isolate for a period of 14 days starting from their arrival back in Canada. This applies to individuals who have returned to Canada on or after March 5, 2020.
- If you fall within this category, and have not already contacted or been contacted by Occupational Health, please do so immediately.

#### EXCEPTIONS

- The Ministry has identified exceptions in extraordinary and/or urgent circumstances.
- In these circumstances, if you are deemed essential and not able to be replaced, you will be contacted by your manager or Occupational Health.

The exception may apply if:

- Your role is operationally significant, and/or you have a unique skillset that cannot be replaced by other available staff;
- Staff/physician resourcing is scarce and additional staff are required to ensure safe delivery of patient care and service.

If there are particular staff or physicians who are deemed essential and not able to be replaced in accordance with the criteria above, and must return to work, the Ministry of Health recommends that these individuals are:

- Screened;
- Have their temperature taken twice daily to monitor for fever;
- Wear appropriate PPE; and
- If symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and self-identify to their manager (and for physicians to the Chief of Staff) and the Occupational Health department,

## ACTIVE SCREENING

Hotel Dieu Shaver began actively screening all individuals entering the facility on Monday, March 16, 2020. **This screening will continue.**

## NEW VISITOR RESTRICTIONS

Also on March 16, HDS introduced visitor restrictions to one visitor per patient at a time, with exceptions made for palliative care patients.

Effective tonight, Thursday, March 19 at 8 p.m., **HDS will no longer be accepting visitors**, except for palliative care patients or in extraordinary circumstances as preapproved by the Clinical Manager.

We understand these are difficult decisions; however, this is a necessary measure to protect the health and well-being of our patients and team members, reduce traffic in and out of the hospital and practice social distancing.

To support the ability of patients to keep in contact with their loved ones, HDS will provide all patients with free WiFi for mobile device connectivity.

## OUR 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