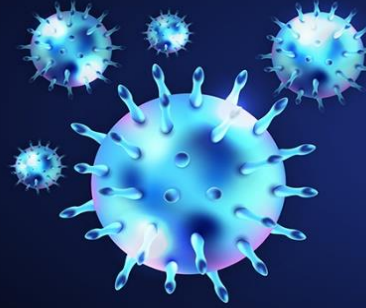


Monday, March 23, 2020



## HDS CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 BULLETIN

### CHILDCARE RELIEF IN SIGHT FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

In another measure announced by the Province on Sunday, designated day care centres are being exempted from the closure order. This is so they can care for the children of health sector and front-line emergency workers.

The move responds to concerns that doctors, nurses and other staff are experiencing difficulties managing their work and home lives without help on the child care front. The provincial government recognizes this move as an “all hands on deck approach” for healthcare workers to focus on flattening the COVID-19 curve and providing the healthcare necessary to achieve this.

The day care centres will have contingency plans in place if a staff member or child contracts COVID-19 and numbers of children in each location will be kept low.

Once the centres are open, a list will be made public at [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus).

### HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS GET BOOST FROM CORPORATE PARTNERS

There is now a centralized website to submit innovative ideas from corporate partners looking to support Ontario's coronavirus response. Requests are being prioritized for the following products:

- Masks
- Gloves
- Ventilators
- Swabs
- Disinfectant wipes
- Lab testing equipment
- Eye protection
- Gowns
- Hand sanitizer

Much like Niagara-based Dillon's Distillery has shifted their operation to produce and donate hand sanitizer and disinfectant to various organizations, other corporations have ways to help.

Please encourage all interested businesses to visit this link <https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-your-business-can-help-fight-coronavirus>

## HOSPITAL-BASED LABS MOBILIZE TO TEST FOR COVID-19 TO ALLEVIATE BACKLOG

According to a *Globe and Mail* article on March 21:

- Ontario has a backlog of more than 7,200 tests as of Saturday and results are taking nearly a week to come back in some cases.
- To help address the problem, researchers at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital and the University Health Network are teaming up to re-purpose hospital research labs for COVID-19 testing.
- The hope is that in the days and weeks ahead, the labs could process an increasing number of tests, which could take some of the pressure off stretched public health labs.
- The move is necessary in order to get ahead of the virus.
- The longer term goal is to develop new testing methods that could allow labs to potentially process 10,000 to 20,000 tests a day.

## COVID-19 TESTS AT HOTEL DIEU SHAVER

### SCREENING CONTINUES

- As you know, we continue to screen staff daily along with any visitors who have been pre-approved to enter given rare, extenuating circumstances.
- This involves a questionnaire and temperature reading.
- The temperature reading is an added precaution above and beyond what some other facilities have implemented.

### PATIENTS

- Over the past week, we've had three patients with low-risk symptoms that were nevertheless tested for COVID-19 out of an abundance of caution.
- Test results have come back and all are negative.
- This means we presently, and thankfully, have no COVID-19 cases at HDS.

## 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](#)