

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 3, April 28, 2003

The government of Ontario is committed to providing the information healthcare providers require in order to deliver the services needed to manage SARS. As part of these ongoing communications, the government will be issuing a SARS bulletin on a regular basis to inform healthcare professionals of new directives and other pertinent information.

This bulletin provides an update on new directives and communications and does not replace or amend these documents.

SARS WEBSITE

The government continues to disseminate information on its public website, including information for healthcare providers. Users are directed to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website, www.health.gov.on.ca. Information for the public is also available online at www.healthyonario.com.

KEY INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

- A list of SARS 'hot spots' has been posted on the dedicated SARS website. Please consult your facility administration and organization/college to obtain a copy of this document. Providers may also call a dedicated phone line to hear a recorded message from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, providing this information. The number is 1-866-670-3155. The local number is 416-212-0890. Please note that the number will be activated at the end of day today.
- Healthcare providers are directed to the listing of hospital categories, posted on the dedicated SARS website and obtainable from your facility administration and organization/college, who have access to this website.

CURRENT CASE STATUS

(as of April 28, 2003)

Probable	142
Suspect	122
Cumulative total	264
Total current cases*	69
Discharged	156
Deaths	21

* = in hospital

KEY SARS FACTS

April 26th-27th

- 10 people were discharged over the weekend.
- There were two deaths over the weekend.

April 28th

- 69 hospital cases – down 34% in the past 10 days.
- 6 people were discharged today.
- Total active cases have declined by 24% over the past 10 days.
- A delegation including the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Chief Medical Officer of Health arrives in Geneva later today to meet with the WHO.

DIRECTIVES

- No new directives were issued since April 24th.
- Please consult your facility administration and organization/college to obtain copies of all directives issued to date.

NEWS

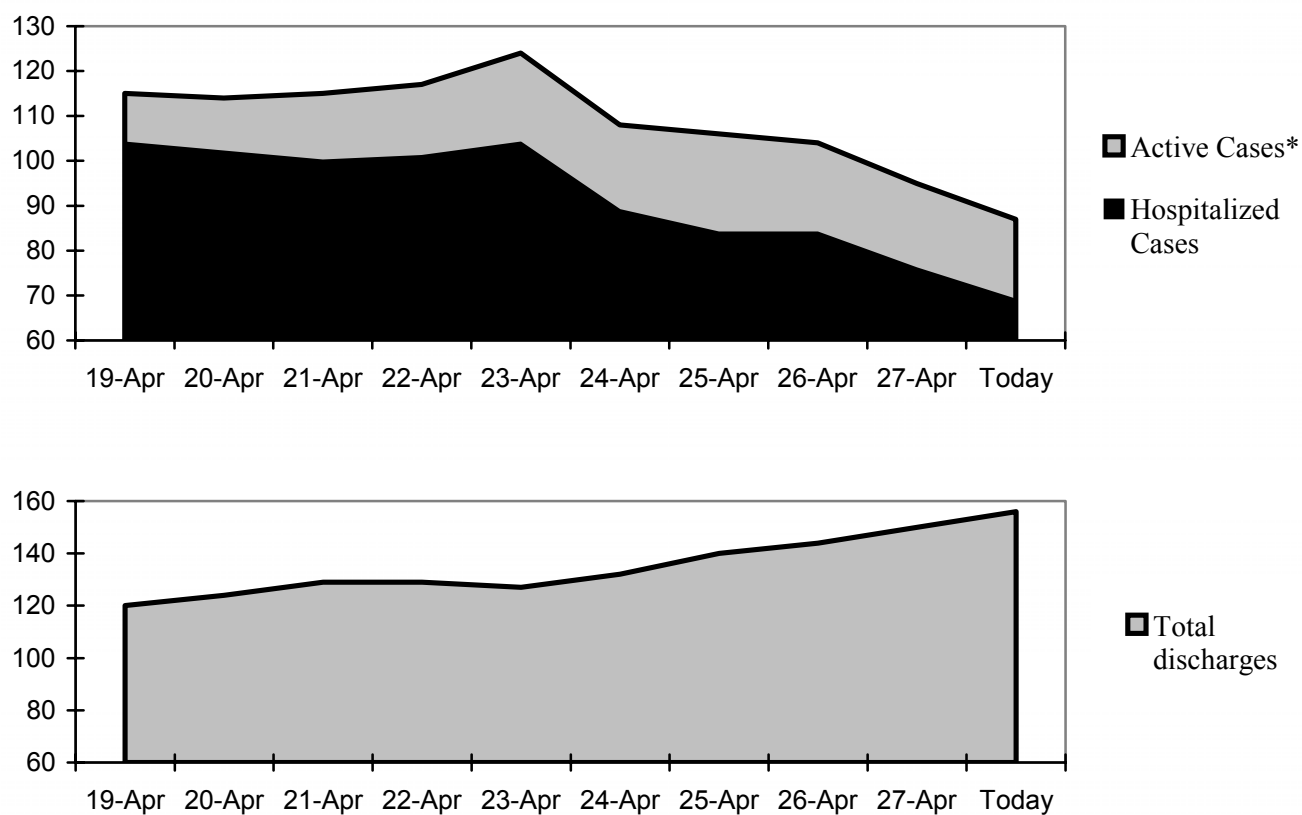
- The Hon. Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Colin D'Cunha, Chief Medical Officer of Health, and representatives from Health Canada and the City of Toronto are travelling to Geneva, Switzerland, today and will be in discussions with the World Health Organization about SARS issues, including the travel advisory for Toronto.
- Minister Clement and Federal Health Minister Anne McLellan thanked healthcare professionals at a ceremony held at the Toronto Delta-Chelsea hotel today. This was in addition to the advertisement in the weekend newspapers. The government continues to express its sincere appreciation for the dedication of healthcare providers throughout this challenging time.
- Taiwan has temporarily barred visitors from Canada, China, Hong Kong and Singapore and requested that residents returning from these areas go into quarantine upon arrival in the country.

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Ontario

EPIDEMIOLOGY



* Active Cases includes probable and suspect cases in hospital, at home or under investigation.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Advertisements thanking healthcare professionals continue to run in 43 regional daily newspapers during this week.
- Further gestures of appreciation for the hard work providers are doing during this time of stress will come in the next week.
- The press conference for tomorrow, April 29th, will include a satellite link to Geneva. Minister Clement and Dr D'Cunha will respond to questions during the conference.
- Press conferences with the Commissioner of Public Health, the Commissioner of Public Security and other medical experts continue to be held daily throughout the week at 3 p.m. or as needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Websites www.health.gov.on.ca, www.healthyontario.com
- Medical information hotline 1-866-212-2272