

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 5, April 30, 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.

KEY INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The following is further detail on Premier Eves' April 30th announcement of a SARS action plan:

- Front-line health workers will receive compensation for lost income due to being quarantined or ill with SARS. Their caregivers will also be eligible for financial assistance.
- Expanded staffing in public health surveillance, epidemiology and laboratory areas.
- Initially six mobile rapid response teams will be created, rising to a total of 15. These teams will be equipped to respond to SARS or other infectious diseases throughout the province.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been assessing the infectious disease protocols in place in Ontario hospitals. New protocols will be developed based on this assessment.
- \$25 million in emergency funding to address surgical backlogs for cardiac, cancer and other surgeries.

The government of Ontario has requested Health Canada and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to investigate the spread of SARS among healthcare workers. Health Canada and the CDC will be gathering information to compare the circumstances surrounding those who were infected to those not infected, and will provide a report outlining the probable cause of the transmission among healthcare workers and recommendations for additional measures that may be taken to prevent further spread.

DIRECTIVES

- No directives were issued today.
- Please consult your facility administration and organization/college to obtain copies of all directives issued to date.

KEY SARS FACTS

- 20 days have passed since the last known transmission outside of a hospital.
- Hospital cases have declined by 37% in the past 10 days.
- 69 hospital cases – 39 probable and 30 suspect.
- Health Canada and CDC to report on transmission of SARS among healthcare workers.

CURRENT CASE STATUS

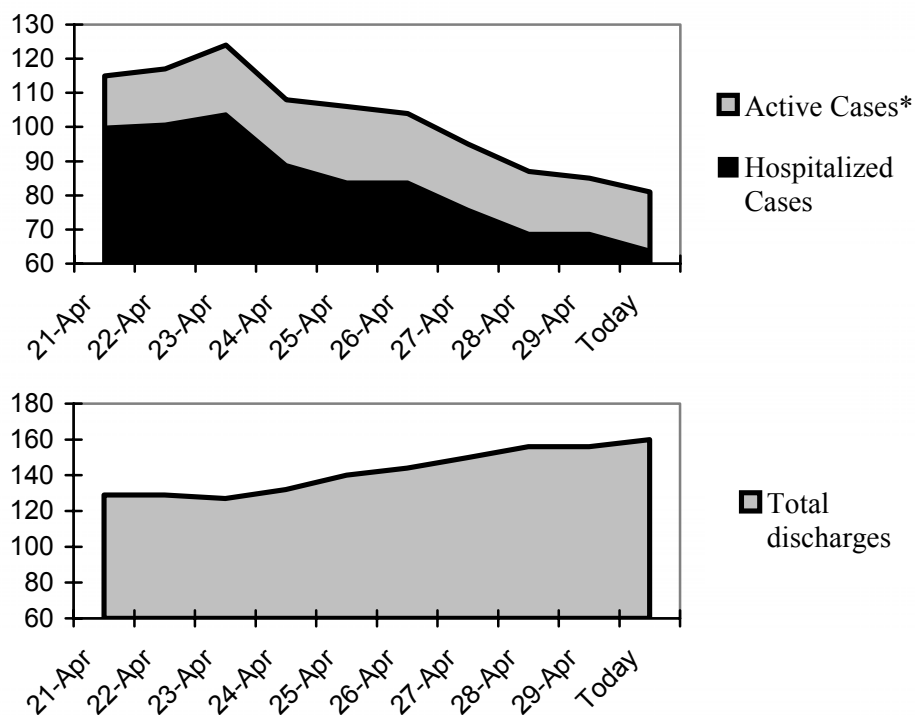
(As of April 30, 2003)

Probable	143
Suspect	119
Cumulative total	262
Total current cases*	69
Healthcare workers [†]	87
Discharged	160
Deaths	21

* = in hospital

[†] = probable & suspect. Note this figure was incorrectly reported yesterday. The total for April 29 was 86 cases.

EPIDEMIOLOGY



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

COMMUNICATIONS

- Advertisements thanking healthcare professionals continue to run in 43 regional daily newspapers during this week.
- 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 or as needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Websites www.health.gov.on.ca, www.healthyonario.com
- Medical information hotline 1-866-212-2272
- 'Hot spots' reporting line 1-866-670-3155 or locally 416-212-0890 (recorded message of potential transmission sites).