

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 7, May 2, 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

- Healthcare workers are advised to take the simple precaution of remaining at home should they feel ill.
- The Etobicoke SARS Community Clinic, serving west end GTA will be changing its hours effective Monday, May 5th to Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The clinic is located at 150 Sherway Drive in Etobicoke at the Queensway Site of Trillium Health Centre and may be contacted at 416-521-4100.
- Beginning May 5th, the York Region SARS Clinic in Markham will be open Monday to Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. The clinic will be closed on Sunday May 4th. This clinic will close on May 14th.

DIRECTIVES

- Directives for acute care facilities pertaining to high-risk procedures in critical care areas were issued yesterday evening.
- Directives to acute care hospitals were issued yesterday evening, replacing the following directives:
 - Directives to all Ontario acute care hospitals issued on April 14th.
 - Provincial directives to all acute care hospitals issued April 3rd.
 - Directives to all acute care hospitals issued April 1st.
 - Interim directives to all hospitals outside the GTA/Simcoe acute care hospitals issued March 31st.
 - Directives to GTA/Simcoe county acute care hospitals issued March 29th.
- Please consult your facility administration and organization/college to obtain copies of all directives issued to date.

KEY SARS FACTS

- There have been no new cases reported in the past 24 hours.
- All hospitals are restricted access but there are no facilities currently classified as level 2 or 3.
- Although the epidemiology seems to indicate a favourable trend, healthcare professionals are urged to maintain vigilance and to adhere scrupulously to infection control protocols as set out in issued directives.
- Hospitalized cases (probable & suspect) have declined by 55% - 47 current cases compared to 104 on April 23rd.
- Discharges have risen by 49% in the past 10 days.
- 176 discharges, up from 127 on April 23rd.

CURRENT CASE STATUS

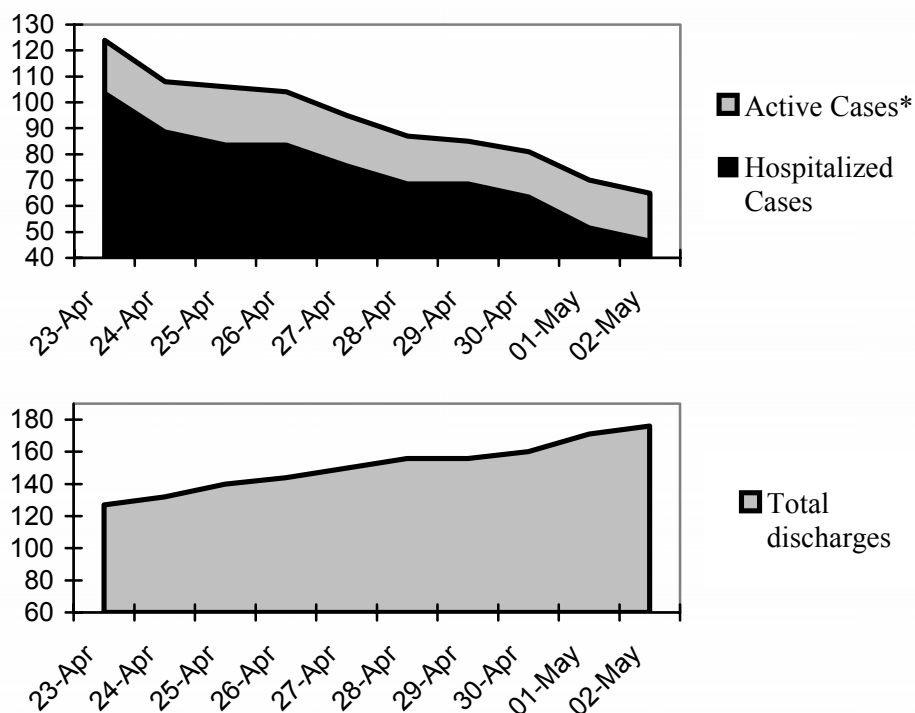
(As of May 2, 2003)

Probable	145
Suspect	119
Cumulative total	264
Total current cases*	47
Healthcare workers†	91
Discharged	176
Deaths	23

* = in hospital

† = probable & suspect

EPIDEMIOLOGY



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

COMMUNICATIONS

- A webcast detailing infection control protocols for healthcare professionals is tentatively planned for next week. Further details will be made available in this bulletin.
- English and French 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.healthyontario.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).