

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 10, May 9, 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

- During the coming Mothers' Day weekend, when there may be an increase of visitors to facilities, all healthcare professionals are advised to adhere stringently to infection control protocols.
- The York Region SARS assessment clinic will close, effective May 14th.

DIRECTIVES

- No directives were issued over the past two days.
- Please consult your facility administration and organization/college to obtain copies of all directives issued to date.

NEWS

- The World Health Organization has expanded its travel advisory for China to include Beijing, Guangdong, Hong Kong SAR, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, Tianjin and Taipei in Taiwan province.
- The federal government has initiated a SARS grant program for those who deliver, or help to deliver, healthcare services, are not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) and were affected by SARS. Such persons may be eligible to receive special assistance through this program. The program is retroactive to March 30th. Further information may be found at the SARS Grant Initiative website:
http://www.jobsetc.ca/content_pieces.jsp?category_id=524&lang=e

KEY SARS FACTS

- All healthcare providers are reminded to adhere to infection control, hand-washing and isolation protocols.
- Hospitalized cases (probable & suspect) have declined by 39% in the past 10 days (from 64 to 39).
- It is anticipated that, given the current numbers and the course of the infection, the number of affected individuals will continue to drop dramatically.
- There are 24 probable and 15 suspect hospitalized cases.
- Discharges have risen by 12% in the past 10 days (from 160 to 185).

CURRENT CASE STATUS

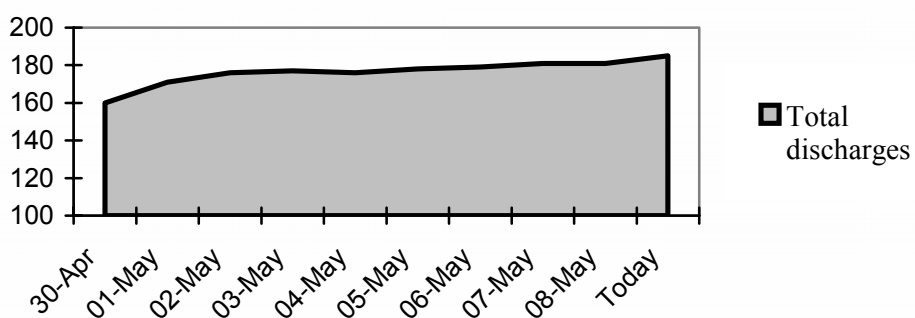
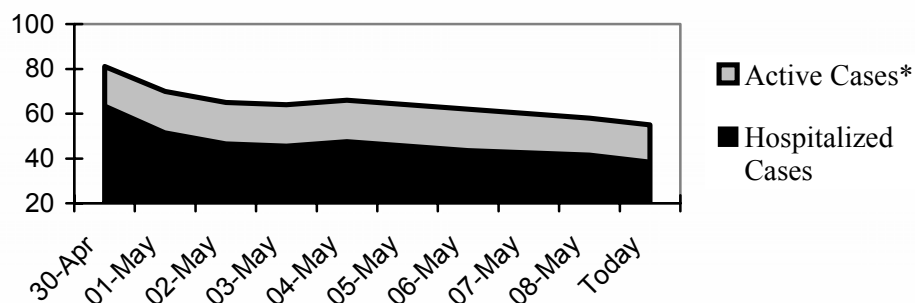
(As of May 9, 2003)

Probable	141
Suspect	122
Cumulative total	263
Total current cases*	39
Healthcare workers [†]	96
Discharged	185
Deaths	23

* = in hospital

[†] = probable & suspect as at May 7th

EPIDEMIOLOGY



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

COMMUNICATIONS

- A webcast thanking healthcare providers and featuring Dr. James Young, Ontario's Commissioner of Public Security, will be held Monday May 12th at 2pm. It will be archived for three months on both the Ministry website and the Canada Newswire website. The URL is <http://webevents.broadcast.com/cnw/SARS>
- The webcast of World Health Organization's press conference on the lifting of the travel advisory for Toronto is posted on the dedicated SARS website. Please contact your facility administrator, college or association for access.
- Press conferences with the Commissioner of Public Health, the Commissioner of Public Security and other medical experts continue to be held 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).