

SARS Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

Ministry of Health &
Long-Term Care

*A newsletter for
Healthcare Providers*

Issue no. 15, May 29, 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.

DIRECTIVES

- No new Directives have been released today.

NEWS

- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care today adopted the WHO case definition of SARS. Whether a SARS case is suspect, probable, or under investigation, treatment and management have not changed due to the change in case definition.
- The World Health Organization case definitions for the surveillance of SARS referred to in today's press conference are available online at <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/casedefinition/en/>
- The LCBO closed its Aurora store last night at 14824 Yonge Street until further notice after an employee was possibly exposed to SARS. Staff and public at the store are being directed to contact York Region Health Services *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653 for further information and quarantine direction. Potential dates of exposure are May 17 to 26.

KEY SARS FACTS

- There are 29 probable and 8 suspect cases related to the new cluster (reported on or after May 22nd). These numbers are based on the WHO case definition.
 - Durham, Parry Sound, York and Toronto have reported probable cases.
 - Durham, Toronto and York have reported suspect cases.
- As of last night, Toronto General Hospital is a Category 2 hospital. ED is expected to remain closed until June 2. TGH is open in all other areas, including scheduled patient procedures.
- GTA hospitals are advised to continue heightened infection control procedures.
- There is no evidence of widespread public transmission of SARS and the current cases under investigation are linked to the original cluster of cases.

CUMULATIVE CASE STATUS

As of May 29, 2003. Based on WHO case definition.

Probable	169
Suspect	129
Cumulative total	298
Total current cases*	37
Discharged	232
Deaths	29

* in hospital

CURRENT & POTENTIAL HOSPITAL EXPOSURE SITES

- North York General Hospital – April 19- May 23
- St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital – May 1 – May 22
- Scarborough Hospital, General Division – May 12 – May 23
- UHN Toronto General Hospital ED – May 22
- St. Michael's Hospital, Neurosurgery Unit – May 15-May 23
- St. Michael's Hospital, CCU – May 20 – 25
- Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care – May 21-23
- Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – May 22-23
- Lakeridge Healthcare Corporation Bowmanville Hospital – May 24
- West Parry Sound Health Centre – May 23

COMMUNICATIONS

- Press conferences with the Commissioner of Public Health, Commissioner of Public Safety will continue to be held as needed. Updates and fact sheets will be posted at www.health.gov.on.ca.
- MOHLTC has placed additional SARS information advertising in Toronto dailies for May 30.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Potential SARS exposure hotline 1-866-670-3155
- Websites www.health.gov.on.ca, www.healthyontario.com
- SARS operations centre 1-866-212-2272
- Toronto Public Health for public - 416-338-7600
- Toronto Public Health hotline for health care facilities and providers – not for general public – 416-338-1119
- York Region Health Services Health Connection 1-800-361-5653
- Public - Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000
- SARS hotline - for public general SARS information 1-888-668-4636

Useful non-Ministry links:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention SARS website
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/>
- World Health Organization SARS website
<http://www.who.int/csr/sars/en/index.html>
- Health Canada SARS website for health care professionals and the public <http://www.sars.gc.ca>