

Multiple Guidance Updates from Ministry of Health

Update to York Region health care providers as of November 23, 2020

Ontario's Ministry of Health has made a number of recent updates to COVID-19 guidance documents for health care providers and pharmacies. Please see the links and highlights of changes below to review these guidance documents. All guidance documents can be found on Ontario's [COVID-19 Guidance for the Health Sector](#) page.

COVID-19 Guidance

[Testing of Asymptomatic Persons in Pharmacies](#)

- Basic information on how pharmacies will be facilitating COVID-19 specimen collection as per the provincial guidance for asymptomatic individuals eligible for testing within the publicly funded health care system in Ontario

[Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#)

- Reference to Ontario Health's document on [Optimizing Care Through COVID-19 Transmission Scenarios](#)
- Importance of in-person care where essential and for those conditions and instances where patients may not benefit from virtual care
- Reference to [COVID-19 Screening tool for Children in School and Child Care](#)
- Change from 14 to 10 days of self-isolation following symptom onset, provided that the individual is afebrile, and symptoms are improving
- Importance of not delaying assessment and treatment of issues which have symptoms that overlap with those of COVID-19 but are clinically evident of a different diagnosis
- Reference to [Considerations for Community-Based Health Care Workers on Interpreting Local Epidemiology](#)
- Reference to [Guidance for Immunization Services During COVID-19](#)

[Labour, Delivery and Newborn Care](#)

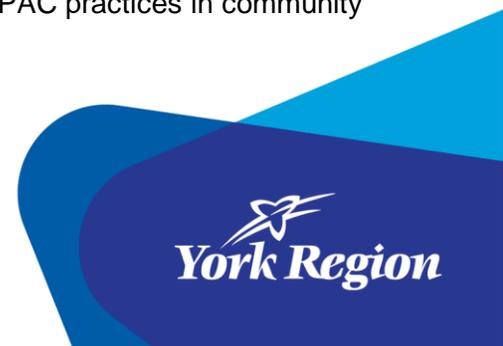
- Clarification on testing: COVID-19 should be suspected in all pregnant women manifesting with an unexplained, persistent (on two occasions, 30 minutes apart) fever (>37.8) and testing for SARS-CoV2 should be performed. While testing should be considered for any febrile women in labour, if community prevalence remains low and an alternate cause of fever is clear, it is reasonable not to test

[COVID-19 Guidance: Hospice Care](#)

- Updated on November 12, 2020: a prevention of transmission section and an outbreak management section are now included.

[Infection Prevention and Control Hubs](#)

- As part of the province's comprehensive plan [Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19](#), local networks of Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) expertise are being developed from across the health system which will work to enhance IPAC practices in community based, congregate living settings.



- These settings include long-term care homes, retirement homes, residential settings funded by the Ministry of Health, residential settings for adults and children funded by Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, shelters, and supportive housing.
- Through a new, province-wide network, congregate living settings will be able to access IPAC expertise through local IPAC Hubs. More information on this initiative is available in the [Infection and Prevention Control Hub document](#).

Questions? York Region Public Health Can Help

Call our dedicated health professional COVID-19 line at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280** (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, after hours call 905-953-6478) or email CIDIntakeLine@york.ca. Continue to visit york.ca/healthprofessionals, york.ca/covid19 and Ontario.ca/covid19 for up to date information on COVID-19.