

KEY UPDATES FROM THE APRIL 21, 2020 TORONTO REGION PLANNING & OPERATIONS TABLE

COVID-19 LABS & TESTING

- We are seeing our highest levels of outbreak numbers being reported now given our ramp up in testing.
- We are experiencing two different outbreaks: one in community and one in LTC. Congregate care and LTC continues to be focus for testing and surveillance.
- New communication released by TPH about new access to resources and supports for LTC homes.
 - Reminder of obligation to report suspected and confirmed outbreak to TPH
- All CMOH directives and guidance now available on [MOH website](#).

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Quality of data around PPE improving. We are able to better understand and predict run rates, consumption, allocation needs and proactive issues management.
- Toronto Region allocated Level 2 surgical masks to LTC homes and retirement homes. Seeing a number of good signs: supply chains are opening; organizations are asking for support earlier allowing proactive allocation of supplies.
- An allocation framework and methodology is being developed for distribution of PPE to Home Care Providers and Primary Care Providers, specifically serving vulnerable populations (e.g. Community Health Clinics, Aboriginal Health Access Centers, inner city clinics, clinics serving refugee populations, etc.).

SECTOR UPDATES

- **Primary Care:** Ongoing discussions around ramping up surgical and acute procedures at provincial level, and looking to maintain the virtual care option also. Some older physicians are choosing not to reregister. LTC-Plus program well received and recognized for its contribution.
- **Home Care:** Seeing effect of delayed and deferred care in burden on family. One-employer directive in other settings having spillover effect in home care. Seeing benefit of system support for LTC in IPAC and environmental cleaning standards improving. With release of Home & Community Care plan seeing higher rates being provided to home care staff working in LTC in an outbreak situation.
- **LTC/Congregate Care:** Outbreaks declared at 26 LTC/Congregate homes within the TC LHIN boundaries; and 58 LTC/Congregate homes within the broader City of Toronto. Hospital partners are providing significant support across the system. Issues remain in terms of need for PPE, IPAC, testing, clinical management and staffing. Toronto Region

LTC Rapid Response Action Plan launched with partners including hospitals, Toronto Public Health, LHIN, LTC, and others including matching homes with hospital leads, and operational and executive leadership oversight.

- **Community:** One-employer directive in other settings having spillover effect in community care. Mobile testing and monitoring an important service for cluster settings and for those that can't travel to assessment centres.
- **Hospitals:** Critical Care and acute care capacity remains in a good position. Slight increase in the numbers of COVID-19 positive patients being well managed by Critical Care. Ongoing work with LTC homes to identify and help support their needs.
- **Homeless/Shelter:** Downtown hospitals are supporting mobile swabbing capability. The PUI site has transitioned to a COVID-positive site to assist with ramping up capacity for homeless and shelter population. Plans in place to ramp up on the development of additional sites.
- **Indigenous Community:** Looking to proactively establish plans to anticipate evacuation requirements for Northern Community. Continuing to assess and provide support for determinants of health. Some PPE supplies may be required.

NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Covid19toronto.ca](https://www.covid19toronto.ca) is available for individuals across Toronto and York Region seeking assessment for COVID-19. Virtual triage support is provided by Registered Nurses for clinical symptoms for residents.
 - Please promote the use of [covid19toronto.ca](https://www.covid19toronto.ca) as an important first step in testing.
- Ontario's Virtual Care Clinic, seethedoctor.ca, is NOW LIVE and available for individuals across the province with non-urgent health concerns.
- Toronto Region SharePoint site continues to expand with additional resources and collaborative space. All Memos, Directives and Guidance are posted here for your ease of use. [Please visit](#) and let us know your feedback.
- The Toronto Region COVID-19 [Interactive Dashboard](#) is now live and updated daily.

UPDATED GUIDANCE

- [Memo: Testing in Long-Term Care Homes](#)
- [Memo: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions](#)
- [Memo: Update on Transfer of Hospital Patients to Retirement Homes](#)
- [COVID-19 HR Recommendations: Hospital Employee Sick Pay](#)