
SUBJECT: Interim Testing Recommendations for COVID-19
Date: March 17, 2020
Pages: 1 (with two attachments)
To: Primary Care Providers, Emergency Departments, Hospitals, Infection Control Practitioners
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO

Please see below for updated COVID-19 testing recommendations from WDGPH. These reflect the most recent guidance from Ontario's Ministry of Health and the Public Health Agency of Canada about returning travelers. A flow diagram is attached.

Individuals who return from travel outside of Canada (including the United States) are being asked to **self-isolate** for 14 days following their return. WDGPH is recommending that all returning travelers *including those who have returned within the past 14 days* self-isolate. Please see attached for a poster that differentiates between self-monitoring, self-isolation, and isolation.

Individuals should only be tested if they have symptoms of COVID-19 AND meet one of the following COVID-19 testing criteria:

- Close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19
- Severe symptoms or admission to hospital
- Essential health or community service providers
- Resides in a long-term care home, retirement home, or other institutional setting
- First Nation Community members living on-reserve
- Testing recommended by the Medical Officer of Health.

Returning travelers who do not meet one of the criteria above should self-isolate at home for a minimum of 14 days and until 24 hours after symptoms resolve.

WDGPH recognizes the important work that physicians, nurses, paramedics and other *essential health or community service providers* perform during a pandemic. For these individuals, the self-isolation period may be waived so long as they are symptom-free in order to preserve system capacity. These individuals should speak with their employers about the appropriateness of attending work versus self-isolating at home. These individuals must closely self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and, if any develop, immediately self-isolate at home.

For more information, refer to contact or website:

Name/Title: WDG Public Health, Physicians Call Centre

Contact: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7011 / www.wdgpublichealth.ca