

Memo from the CEO and COS

Date: May 25, 2020
To: All Employees/Professional Staff/Affiliates
Subject: **Swabbing of all Staff starting Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

RECENT DISCUSSIONS

Many of you have asked about mass swabbing of hospital staff – especially those working in hospitals with higher volumes of COVID-19 probable and/or positive patients in the community and in the hospital itself – like Windsor Regional Hospital.

ONTARIO HEALTH REQUEST – TRIAL HOSPITAL

We have been approached by Ontario Health to have ALL our staff (employees, professional staff and affiliates) swabbed starting Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

WHY AGREE TO BE SWABBED?

Being swabbed and tested is meant to protect patients, community, your family, friends, co-workers and yourself. It will allow you to know whether you are currently positive for COVID-19 and possibly (because it takes time for the virus to leave your system) whether you were positive recently but are shedding COVID-19

- [Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings, CDC](#)

As COVID-19 develops the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) has indicated that as many as 35% of those testing positive with COVID-19 are asymptomatic

- [COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios, CDC](#)

If you test negative for COVID-19, you probably were not infected at the time your sample was collected. However, that does not mean you will not get sick. It is possible that you were very early in your infection when your sample was collected and that you could test positive later. Or you could be exposed later and then develop illness. In other words, a negative test result does not mean you won't get sick later. This means you could still spread the virus. If you test negative you should continue to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID 19 and practice all Public Health Measures currently in place including social distancing, hand hygiene, and now universal mask use while in any public setting at work or in the community.

- [How to self-monitor, Public Health Ontario](#)

MOVING FORWARD

This is NOT meant to be a “one-time” event. The Premier has made it clear that the plan is to increase testing volumes to some 100,000 per day. However, to start with a solid base of tests it would be beneficial if you participate in this swabbing from “day-one”. Even if you have been swabbed recently please participate again.

HOW WILL IT OCCUR?

COVID-19 Testing will be available on all inpatient and outpatient nursing units starting Tuesday May 26th at 0630 until 2130 for department staff.

- [COVID-19 Virus Test Requisition](#)

For non-nursing departments and any staff who are unable to attend or receive testing on their home unit, the following clinics will be available:

Ouellette Campus (Starting May 26)

- 2 North - Hours: 0630-1130 and 1430-2130

Met Campus (Starting May 26)

- Fracture Clinic - Hours 0630-1130 and 1430-2130

You will be provided with forms to complete and bring to testing and **WILL NEED YOUR HEALTH CARD.**

Our goal is to get all hospital staff that want to be tested to be done in 2-3 days maximum.



WHILE WAITING FOR RESULTS

It is typically taking 24-48 hours for results to arrive. While waiting for the results from this “mass swabbing” you will continue to work and wear appropriate PPE unless you have talked to Employee Health and they have informed you otherwise due to your unique circumstances. (i.e. you have active symptoms)

You will be able to access your results at:

- [COVID-19 Test Results, Ontario Health](#)

If you get a positive result please contact Employee Health immediately.

HOURS: Monday to Friday 8 am to 4 pm

PHONE: 519-254-5577 Extension 52588 or 32525.

AFTER HOURS: 519-995-1854 or 519-995-0324

