

# COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

## Update: Priority immunizations, vaccine wastage, LTCH screening, primary care guidance

April 28, 2020 at 1:30 pm

An Update from Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health

*Please share with staff*

### Prioritizing immunizations

- Routine immunizations prevent infectious disease outbreaks in our community.
- Memo from Chief Medical Officer of Health gives details on immunization services, particularly when emergency orders and physical distancing are in place.
- Read: [Guidance for Immunization Service Providers During COVID-19](#)

### Vaccine Storage and Handling During COVID-19

- Maintain vaccine wastage at your premises, separate from usable vaccine, and:
  - Clearly indicate that these vaccines are wasted; and
  - Do not return vaccine wastage to your public health unit until further notice.

### Updated Primary Care Provider Guidance

- Updates made to the '[COVID-19 Patient Screening Guidance Document](#)', located under active screening clarifies that the case definition is intended for public health surveillance.

### Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes Guidance

- Updates to [screening guidance](#) for LTCHs and retirement homes
- Ministry now allowing hospitals to resume discharging patients to retirement homes, and transfers should only occur if:
  - the receiving home is not in a COVID-19 outbreak,
  - the patient has been tested at point of discharge and deemed to have a negative result, and
  - the patient completes a 14-day self-isolation upon arrival at the retirement home.

### Are you providing COVID-19 testing to your patients?

- Southwestern Public Health has designed a [brief, plain language handout](#) to give to your patients following the swabbing process. If you would like some copies, you can get them with your vaccine pick ups or you can print right from our website.