

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

Update: ARI Form, Testing and Clearing Cases, Return to Work Guidance for HCWs, WHO WhatsApp

March 30, 2020 at 10:00 am

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

Please share with staff

ARI Notification Form

- PS EMR resource form for Acute Respiratory Infection is now available on the **PCA website**.

Quick Reference for Public Health Testing and Clearing Cases

- **Updated resource for testing and clearance**
- Covers: who should be tested for COVID-19; management of individuals who have not been tested; criteria for when to discharge and consider 'resolved.'

Return to Work Guidance for Health Care Workers

- While there is no evidence of increasing community transmission of COVID-19 in Oxford County, Elgin County or the City of St. Thomas, this is beginning to occur in areas that border us.
- Symptomatic for health care workers means fever or cough, per the case definition. All health care workers who meet this case definition should be tested. Health care workers with other symptoms (i.e. runny nose) and an exposure either through travel or to a confirmed case are advised to be tested.
- A full guidance resource is being developed by SWPH and will soon be published on: **<https://swpublichealth.ca/partners-and-professionals-update-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>**

WHO WhatsApp Health Alerts

- World Health Organization has launched a dedicated messaging service for COVID-19 facts on WhatsApp in multiple languages.
- The free app-based service provides **updated news and information from around the world**.

What you should do:

- Refer to the ARI notification form
- Use the Quick Reference Guidance for testing and clearing cases
- Keep watch for full guidance from SWPH's website for return to work guidance
- Consider signing up for WHO Health Alerts on WhatsApp