

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

Update: COVID-19 Expanded Coverage for Care, Disease Report Change of Practice, and Alternative Swabs

March 23, 2020 at 9:30 am

An Update from Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health
Please share with staff

Ontario Expands Coverage for Care

- **Ontario is waiving** the three-month waiting period for OHIP coverage and will cover the cost of COVID-19 services for uninsured people who do not meet the criteria for OHIP coverage.

New Disease Reporting Form

- A shortened reporting form was submitted to hospitals on March 23, 2020 and is available on the **Southwestern Public Health COVID-19 website**.

Testing: Alternative Swabs

- PHO has validated and approved the use of alternative swabs for collecting nasopharyngeal specimens for COVID-19. View "**Submission and Collection Notes**" for details.

COVID-19 Case Definition Updates

- The Ministry regularly reviews its case definition for COVID-19 **on its website**.
- Check often for updated Case Definition and Guidance documents.

What you should do:

- Communicate Ontario's expanded coverage of care to patients
- Download the new disease reporting from Southwestern Public Health's website
- Consider using alternative swabs
- Regularly check for updates to the COVID-19 Case Definition