

# COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

## Update: SWPH Change of Practice, PHO COVID-19 Requisition Updates, Primary Care Guidance

March 25, 2020 at 10:30 am

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

### New Disease Reporting Form

- A shortened reporting form is available: **Southwestern Public Health COVID-19**.

### SWPH Change of Practice

- Clients with laboratory confirmation of Campylobacter, Yersinia, Amebiasis, Giardia, Cryptosporidium and Cyclospora will NO longer receive a call from SWPH.
- SWPH will send a letter to the client re: acquisition and transmission risks, a list of website links for disease information, and directions to follow up with physician if needed.

### PHO COVID-19 Updated Requisition

- Laboratory testing capacity is increasing in the province, with a **new requisition form** allowing for better identification of priority testing (Section 7).
- Four PHOLs will be equipped to test for COVID-19 including London, Kingston, Hamilton and Toronto, and four hospital labs, including Hamilton and London. The Ministry is also bringing private labs on board.

### Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting

- HCPs are encouraged to implement a system for virtual or/telephone consults; conduct examinations and specimen collection using contact/droplet precautions; and conduct on-site active and passive screening for patients. More details are on the **Ministry's website**.

### Contacting Southwestern Public Health

- **1-800-922-0096 ext. 9** for Southwestern Public Health; leave a message indicating you are a health care provider for priority triage.
- **After hours (11 p.m. on)**, press '0' to reach the on-call team to address your concerns.
- **Please note, our telephone capacity is stressed, and we may experience interruptions.**

### What you should do:

- Refer to the Change of Practice
- Use the new PHO COVID-19 requisition form
- Review new guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting