

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

TO: Family Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, South Bruce Grey Health Centre and Hanover and District Hospital Emergency Department Staff, Infection Control Practitioners, Bruce Power Occupational Health, Grey and Bruce Emergency Services, Midwives

FROM: Infectious Diseases Program

DATE: March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: **COVID-19 Reporting for Health Care Providers and a few other updates**

COVID-19 Reporting

COVID-19 is a Disease of Public Health Significance under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. Probable cases that do not fit the criteria for testing are still required to be reported to the health unit as a probable case. Individuals who are being tested for COVID-19 should also be reported. Probable cases are advised to self-isolate at home for 14 days.

Please fax the completed *COVID-19 Case Reporting Form for Health Care Providers* (see attached) to the Grey Bruce Health Unit at 519-376-0980.

Swabs

NP swabs are preferred where possible. Nasal swabs should be performed for larger swab heads. The recommended process for swabs is to insert the swab until resistance is met, and twirl the swab for about 15-20 seconds. Throat swabs can be performed if patients do not tolerate anything in the nose.

Resources

The Grey Bruce Health Unit Health Care Professionals website will continue to be kept up-to date: <https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/Your-Health/Infectious-Diseases/ProfessionalResources/COVID-19-Information-for-Health-Care-Providers>

The primary care teleconferences hosted by Dr. Linna Li will still be available, but have been changed to Mondays and Thursdays at 12 – 12:30 pm. You can call in at 1-855-453-6963 or 519-433-8981; conference ID: 4084058

For situation-specific questions, continue to call the Infectious Diseases team at 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 and choose selection 6 Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30. Please use the afterhours number as applicable.

A healthier future for all.

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