



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

Memorandum

Date: March 18, 2020
To: Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Robert Cushman
Subject: **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update #11**

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is recommending that all health care workers with a history of **international travel (including the United States of America)** self-isolate for 14 days. If health care organizations determine a certain employee is essential to operations, please consult with RCDHU.

To consult public health, contact 613-602-5963, during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.) both during the week and on the weekends. During after hours, please call 613-735-9926. **(These phone numbers are for health care workers only, and please avoid any slippage which has already occurred.)**

While screening for COVID-19 is our top priority, we must remember that patients have other urgent needs. For example, a parent was instructed to call RCDHU when their 2 week- old baby was in respiratory distress.

People who are in need of a non COVID -19 clinical assessment should speak to or be seen by a physician or the appropriate health care provider to ensure that they receive the necessary care. Therefore telephone and building entrance screening procedures must take adequate precautions to ensure non COVID-19 urgent needs are not missed.

Lastly, a certain number of patients require support and need to be able to bring a companion with them to appointments. This support person must be screened at the door, and if they fail the screening process, may I suggest that the centre make arrangements to ensure extra support is provided so as not to cancel or undermine the value of the appointment.

Thank you,

D. Robert Cushman

Acting Medical Officer of Health