



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

## Memorandum

**Date:** March 24, 2020  
**To:** Primary Care, Hospitals, LTCH, retirement homes  
**From:** Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health  
**Subject:** **Swabbing for COVID-19 Direction as of March 23, 2020**

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Due to a shortage of swabs, a backlog in testing, and Renfrew County and District Health Unit's (RCDHU) insistence that there is already community spread, testing will now only be done on the following:

1. Individuals with acute respiratory symptoms being admitted to hospital.
2. Individuals already in health care institutions and retirement homes with acute respiratory symptoms.
3. HCW with respiratory symptoms.

Anyone tested should be considered a presumptive case until the result comes back, and the necessary precautions must be taken, to the best of our ability.

Typically, there is a mix and severity of respiratory symptoms and this too must be considered in the assessment. RCDHU is readily available to help with these decisions, if you require assistance.

Novel coronavirus is reportable under Ontario's public health legislation. Renfrew RCDHU should be notified regarding any individuals being tested for COVID-19 by:

1. Using the [COVID-19 Reporting Form](#) located on RCDHU's website, and fax to 613-735-3067; and
2. Calling to identify the case at 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, at 613-735-9926.

Thanks for your cooperation on this important matter.  
Thank you,

D. Robert Cushman

Acting Medical Officer of Health