



Memorandum

Date: 2020-Jun-11
To: Health Care Workers and Health Service Providers
Renfrew County and District
From: Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health
Re: **Recommendations about Travel
for Health Care Workers and Health Service Providers**

While Ontario is gearing up for the Stage 2 resumption of business and the health sector is addressing serious backlogs, it goes without saying that we must remain vigilant.

Our good fortune in Renfrew County and District is the result of a combination of luck, hard work, and strong support by the public. Public Health is confident that ongoing surveillance and aggressive contact tracing will enable us to control outbreaks and to squelch a second wave.

As part of our ongoing vigilance, we all recognize that travel is how COVID-19 gets into a community.

While international travel as well as travel to certain provinces remains on hold or under severe restrictions, we must recognize that communities within the following public health units: Durham, Haldimand-Norfolk, Halton, Hamilton, Lambton, Niagara, Peel, Toronto, Windsor-Essex and York, remain hotspots in Ontario.

Hopefully these parts of Ontario will soon move into Stage 2 but in the meantime, it is best to check with the local health units or with Renfrew County and District Health Unit before considering travel to these areas.

We do have the ability to ask people returning from Montreal and other urban centres in Quebec to self-isolate.

However, we have no similar sway on those returning from ongoing hotspots in Ontario.

As a result, I am asking health care workers and health service providers to seriously reconsider any travel plans to southern Ontario for the rest of June, and to avoid travel to the province of Quebec other than to the neighbouring Outaouais region.

What happened in New Brunswick is a cautionary tale and could well happen in Renfrew County and District. This is what we want to avoid over the coming weeks.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and enjoy the oncoming summer.

Dr. Robert Cushman
Acting Medical Officer of Health
Renfrew County and District Health Unit