

Ministry Issues New Guidance for Primary Care Providers and Ontario Drug Benefit Program

Update to York Region health care providers as of March 23, 2020

1. On March 20, 2020, Ontario's Ministry of Health updated the *COVID-19 Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting*. You can access the COVID-19 guidance for this and other sectors, at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx

From the new guidance, highlights of new changes include:

- Implementing a system for virtual and/or telephone consultations
- Referrals to local COVID-19 Assessment Centres
 - For details on COVID-19 Assessment Centres in York Region, refer to the communication that was sent to health care providers on March 17, 2020, available at york.ca/healthprofessionals under "Past Communication from York Region Public Health"
- Conducting clinical examination and specimen collection using contact/droplet precautions
- Links to latest case definition, signage and PHO IPAC recommendations

2. In addition, the Ministry also issued *Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program Changes and Guidance for Dispensers during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency*. From this new guidance, effective immediately, new guidance has been issued for:

- Days supply and early refills
- Provision of MedsCheck services
- Trillium Drug Program (TDP) and Seniors Co-Payment (SCP) program applications
- Exceptional Access Program (EAP) approvals
- Suspension of inspections for the purposes of post-payment verification of claims reimbursed under the ODB program

Links to the new guidance for primary care providers and ODB program changes can be found on York Region Public Health's COVID-19 page for health professionals. Health professionals are encouraged to visit york.ca/healthprofessionals often to stay up-to-date on the latest information regarding COVID-19.

Health professionals can call our dedicated health professional COVID-19 line at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280** (8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, after hours call **905-953-6478**). These are the same numbers to contact if you are reporting a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. You can also contact York Region Public Health via email at CIDIntakeLine@york.ca.

Continue to visit york.ca/covid19 and Ontario.ca/covid19 for up to date information on COVID-19.