

York Region Public Health Confirms 4 cases of COVID-19

Update to York Region health care professionals as of March 1, 2020

As of March 1, 2020, York Region Public Health is confirming four York Region residents who have recently tested positive for COVID-19. The cases are all travel-related or have known close contact with travel-related cases. York Region Public Health is actively conducting case and contact follow-up activities with these positive cases. To date, two media releases have been issued with more details on each case, and are available at york.ca/newsroom.

We are asking our physician partners to help us by:

- Asking **asymptomatic** individuals you may see that have been exposed to the locations named below to contact us immediately at 1-800-361-5653 (Monday to Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) for further direction
- Calling us at our health care provider only line at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588** (Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or **905-953-6478** after hours (before 8:30 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 24 hours per day on weekends/holidays) should you come across any **symptomatic** individuals that have been exposed to the locations named below. These individuals will likely need testing and a reinforcement of the message to self-isolate at home until test results are received
- Re-assure **well people** who were not in direct or close contact with the individual and who do not meet risk criteria (i.e. symptoms and travel to impacted areas as per Ministry's case definition) that they are not considered at risk of becoming infected and do not need to seek care in the Emergency Dept.

	Case 1 Female in her 30s	Case 2 Male in his 40s	Case 3 Male in his 50s	Case 4 Female in her 70s
Where case was tested?	Mackenzie Health Hospital on February 27	Mackenzie Health Hospital on February 28 <i>Spouse of Case 1</i>	Mackenzie Health Hospital on February 28	Southlake Regional Health Centre on February 29
Travel Reported	Iran	Iran	Iran	Egypt
Exposures of Interest	<p>February 25: Qatar Airways Flight QR 483</p> <p>February 25: Qatar Airways Flight QR 163</p> <p>February 26: Air Canada Flight 883</p> <p>February 26: GO Bus #40 Eastbound from Pearson Airport to Richmond Hill Centre at 3:55pm on second level</p>	No known community exposures	No known community exposures	<p>Close contact of a recently-reported Egypt travel-related case in Toronto.</p> <p>Exposures still being identified</p>

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588
york.ca/healthprofessionals



REPORTING SUSPECT CASES TO PUBLIC HEALTH

As a reminder, **suspected cases of COVID-19 must be reported to York Region Public Health**. If you suspect a case of COVID-19 in your practice, call public health immediately at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588** (Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or **905-953-6478** after hours (before 8:30 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 24 hours per day on weekends/holidays).

For those working outside of a hospital setting: Call public health **before** any testing for COVID-19 is done. It is crucial for Public Health to be notified of any patients suspected to be infected with COVID-19 for preventing spread of this infection within our community.

UPDATED TESTING GUIDANCE

Updated testing guidance from Public Health Ontario Laboratory:

A) Patients not admitted to hospital (including those in ER)

- **A single upper respiratory tract specimen will be accepted for COVID-19 testing.** Upper respiratory tract specimens include a nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) **OR** viral throat swab collected in universal transport medium. NPS is preferred over a viral throat swab – information available to date suggests that a NPS has higher sensitivity than a throat swab for COVID-19 detection.

B) In-patients

For in-patients, it is recommended to collect a minimum of two specimens, from two different sites:

- Upper respiratory tract: submit both a nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) **AND** viral throat swab collected in universal transport medium.
- Lower respiratory tract specimens: submit when possible.
- Sputum: collect if patient has a productive cough. Do not induce.

Serology for COVID-19 is not available.

HEALTH SYSTEM PREPAREDNESS

Lastly, we have been receiving many questions from health providers about health system preparedness, coordination, and supply management. Please note the Ministry of Health and their designated agencies will be taking the lead on these items but broader planning is certainly underway – including discussions and considerations related to things like home testing, assessment centres, Emergency Department diversion strategies, supplies, etc. We will keep you updated as we know more.

Continue to refer to york.ca/healthprofessionals for more information including the link to the Ministry's most up-to-date case definition.