

COVID-19 Update

Date: Monday, March 23, 2020
To: Everyone at HHS
From: Susan Fuciarelli, Director, Health, Safety and Wellness
Subject: **Staff/Physician COVID-19 Testing at Urgent Care Centre**

To protect all our health care workers across our hospital sites, we have new guidelines on what staff and physicians need to do if they become symptomatic. If required, staff/physicians will be asked to have a nasopharyngeal swab completed at our Urgent Care Centre on Main West.

Starting today, all staff/physicians who experience symptoms of COVID-19 including cough, unexplained fever, shortness of breath, gastrointestinal issues, muscle aches, sore throat and runny nose, will be asked to do the following immediately:

- If at work/on shift:
 - Contact Employee Health Services (EHS) at covidforms@hpsc.ca or dialing extension **42200** and leave a message
 - Notify your leader / Physician Leader
 - Go home immediately
 - Wait for an EHS nurse to contact you with further instructions
- If at home or elsewhere:
 - Contact EHS via email at covidforms@hpsc.ca or call **905-521-2100 ext. 42200**
 - Wait for an EHS nurse to contact you with further instructions

This is being done due to the increase in the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Health care workers are some of the most vulnerable people in an outbreak situation, which is why we established a low threshold for symptoms that goes beyond public health guidelines for the general population.

Employee tests will be done in the Urgent Care Centre (**not** in the nearby Assessment Centre) and processed by the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program (HRLMP). Employees will receive their results from EHS with directions on whether to self-isolate or return to work.

Your safety and the safety of our patients are our top priorities.

Thank you for your cooperation.
