



Media Release

May 15, 2020

Expanded Community Testing for COVID-19

In alignment with the expanded Provincial criteria for testing, the Grey Bruce Health Unit is enlarging the eligibility for COVID-19 testing. Testing is available for anyone exhibiting any new or worsening respiratory symptoms, regardless of the risk factors that were previously part of the testing criteria. Symptoms for COVID-19 are similar to the flu and other common respiratory infections and can range from mild to more severe.

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue (feeling tired)
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Runny Nose
- Hoarse voice
- Difficulty swallowing
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

These non-specific symptoms may also indicate other clinical circumstances, and individuals who are experiencing new and worsening symptoms should be assessed for COVID-19 testing.

On-site assessment will be continue, as required, for residents and staff of long-term care, assisted living and retirement homes.

As approved by First Nations chiefs and in collaboration with their staff, on reserve healthcare facilities will provide assessment to anyone living on First Nations reserves with any new or worsening respiratory symptoms.

Assessment will be provided to those with any new or worsening respiratory symptoms living in communal settings such as women's shelters, group homes and residential facilities.

For the general public exhibiting new or worsening respiratory symptoms, assessment is available at any of the assessment centres in Grey Bruce:

[Grey Bruce Health Services](#) – Owen Sound Regional Hospital

Location: Portable facility just outside the entrance to the Owen Sound Hospital

Emergency Department

Hours of Operation: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM, 7 days per week

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101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5 www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

[South Bruce Grey Health Centre](#) – Kincardine Hospital

Location: Portable facility located between hospital and medical clinic Opening Date:

Hours of Operation: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday

[Hanover & District Hospital](#)

Location: Assessment Clinic entrance next to the ER entrance (follow signage)

Hours of Operation: 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM, daily

At-home assessment for COVID-19 is available for those that meet criteria but are unable to get to their local assessment centre. Clients wanting this service must call the Grey Bruce Health Unit at 1-800-263-3456 extension 3000 (Monday to Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) to undergo screening to ensure eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, a visit will be scheduled to the home to complete the testing.

Some primary care providers also conducting assessment; individuals should contact their primary health care provider to inquire if they require testing and where to access a test.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

To arrange to speak with Dr. Arra, please contact Drew Ferguson at:

519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1269

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