



Royal College of
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Ensuring Continued Trust

BULLETIN

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

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ONTARIO MOVES TO “NEW NORMAL” PHASE OF PRACTICE FOR SARS AND OTHER EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

This is the seventh bulletin prepared by the College on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). As Ontario moves to lift the SARS provincial emergency, health-care organizations and workers must prepare for entering a new phase of practice – a phase that has been named the “new normal.”

The province has developed a set of new directives to assist facilities and health-care practitioners to begin to practise in the “new normal.” **These directives take effect as of 0800 hours Friday, May 16, 2003. Links to these new directives are at the bottom of this bulletin.**

The new normal will be characterized by high standards of practice that reflect a heightened awareness of emerging infectious diseases including SARS. Goals of practice are the prevention of exposure, early detection of new cases with appropriate management, protection of others in the community and health-care setting, and full and appropriate management of those individuals with other health-care needs.

The SARS Provincial Operations Centre, in its May 13th bulletin, states:

At this time there remains a high probability of sporadic re-introduction of SARS resulting in local cases with the potential transmission, particularly from recent travellers. Health-care providers and facilities must continue to maintain a very high vigilance for communicable diseases, including SARS, and work together to ensure that the health-care system can respond effectively.

The directives for community health-care providers and agencies, including dentists, physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, allied health professionals, and those whose activities are directed by the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, outline precautions to be invoked routinely, as well as measures to be invoked in the event of another outbreak. Where appropriate, these directives also outline practices to be used in the transition period.

(continued)

The College will continue to share any other information about SARS and other communicable diseases that we receive from the Provincial Operations Centre as it becomes available. It will be posted as soon as possible on our Web site at www.rcdso.org.

- **Advice To All Facilities and Service Providers In the Greater Toronto Area**

- Communication Concerning Lifting of the Emergency (1 page)

- **Directive to Ontario Health Care Providers In Community Settings
And Community Health Care Agencies** (23 pages)