



COVID-19 Update for CDHA members June 11, 2020

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Dear member,

Understanding the Spread of COVID-19 Cases

Due to possible confusion this week after the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that transmission from asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19 is rare, we want to clarify the definitions of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic and ensure that CDHA members are aware of the [clarifications provided by the WHO on June 9](#).

Dr Anthony Fauci, one of the top infectious diseases experts in the US, provides the following definitions:

“Asymptomatic spread is the transmission of the virus by people who do not have symptoms and will never get symptoms from their infection. But those infected carriers could still get others very sick.

Pre-symptomatic spread is the transmission of the virus by people who don't look or feel sick but will eventually get symptoms later. They, too, can infect others without knowing it.”¹

The Harvard Global Health Institute states there is evidence that suggests that people may be most infectious in the days before they become symptomatic; that is, in the pre-symptomatic phase when they feel well, have no symptoms, but may be shedding substantial amounts of virus.

¹Yan H. Fauci says the WHO's comment on asymptomatic spread is wrong. Here's the difference between asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic spread [Internet]. c2020 Cable News Network [updated 10 June 2020]. Available from: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/09/health/asymptomatic-presymptomatic-coronavirus-spread-explained-wellness/index.html>

According to Ontario's Ministry of Health, "A positive test in an asymptomatic individual may represent two possible scenarios:

- i.) **current** infection that is asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic (i.e., the individual develops symptoms afterwards), OR
- ii.) **prior** infection (with or without symptoms) as testing can remain positive for several weeks after infection."²

[Redefining IPAC: It's All About the New Routine](#)

Sponsored by Colgate | Released June 3

New supporting curriculum coming soon!

Watch this webinar before June 17 to ask the presenter your most pressing infection prevention and control questions.

New PPE Supply Hub

This week the Government of Canada launched a new [Supply Hub](#) that provides resources and information to help organizations buy and sell PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic. Buyers will find PPE supplier lists, in addition to guidance to help plan their PPE purchases. Users should note the hub's disclaimer: *the Government of Canada has not endorsed, recommended or approved the suitability of any product or service listed on external sites, and you must exercise your own due diligence before doing business with any supplier listed.*

Join the CDHA Member Advocacy Campaign to Help Improve PPE Access!

Send a letter to your Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)/Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) to raise awareness about PPE requirements for the safe reopening of dental hygiene services in your province. Over 980 letters have been sent across Canada since the campaign started on June 5. [Click here](#) to send your letter today!

(Note: The Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists Association has withdrawn from this initiative because they are already working collaboratively with their provincial government on this important issue.)

Collaborative Advocacy Snapshot: HEAL, Organizations for Health Action

CDHA is a member of HEAL, a non-partisan coalition of 40 national health organizations dedicated to improving the health of Canadians and the quality of care they receive. HEAL's COVID-19 task force has been actively engaged in ongoing dialogue with the office of the federal minister of health, Patty Hajdu, on a variety of issues including the following:

- PPE access, distribution, cost, guidelines
- Long-term care facilities
- Students
- Federal financial relief measures
- Guidelines for aerosol generating medical procedures
- Funding of research by healthcare institutes
- Insurance coverage of practitioners

Message to New and Soon-to-be Mothers

CDHA is still paying close attention to federal parental benefits. We are aware of the concerns about qualifying for EI parental benefits after not working due to COVID-19 and raised this issue with government early in the pandemic. On June 3rd, Minister Qualtrough told a Special House of Commons COVID-19 Committee: "I can assure everyone in the House that we know that there are many groups of people who, because of COVID and for COVID reasons, will not have accumulated sufficient hours or time to access EI benefits. As I committed to the member, we are working on it. It is a tough system to navigate, but I can assure everybody that we will figure this out and be there for all Canadians."

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*Please be well and take care of yourselves in this difficult time.
Everyone can do their part to slow COVID-19.*