

SARS Provincial Operations Centre

Directive 03-07
April 20, 2003

DIRECTIVES TO ALL ONTARIO ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS REGARDING CRITICAL CARE DATABASE

In order to contain the spread of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care directs that all Ontario hospitals with SARS units must undertake the following procedures **effective immediately**:

All Ontario critical care units with the capability for mechanical ventilation **must** provide an update to the Ontario CitiCall database **every 12 hours**.

For the purpose of this directive, available beds:

- are those that can be staffed for a 24-hour period

AND

- are not already occupied by (or committed to) a specific patient who must be managed in this setting. Beds occupied by patients ready for ICU discharge are **not** to be deemed occupied.

Responsibility for the assessment of readiness for ICU discharge lies with the Medical Director of the unit (or physician delegate).

Responsibility for the assessment of staffing lies with the Nursing Unit Manager (or nursing delegate).

Original signed by
Dr. James G. Young

Dr. James G. Young
Commissioner of
Public Security

Original signed by
Dr. Colin D'Cunha

Dr. Colin D'Cunha
Commissioner of
Public Health and Chief Medical
Officer of Health