

# S · A · R · S ·

**June 07, 2003**

**To: All Acute Care Hospitals in Toronto, York and Durham Regions**

**Re: Compliance**

Management of the SARS outbreak has been characterized by both consistent directives from the Government of Ontario and the commitment of service providers to follow these directives.

There have been several breaches of the directives recently. These include:

1. delays in reporting suspect and probable SARS cases to the local public health unit;
2. failure to comply with the current provincial directives; and
3. failure to follow the transfer protocols as outlined in the *Updated Provincial Inter-Facility Patient Transfer Directive*, May 12, 2003

Failure to comply with these requirements may put individuals in our community at risk of being infected with the SARS virus and may make you subject to further orders under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA).

## 1. Reporting

The Chief Medical Officer of Health reminded hospital administrators of their obligations under the HPPA in his letter of May 27, 2003. Each hospital must ensure that the local public health unit is advised of the potential for a case of SARS as soon as the case comes to the attention of the institution. Failure to do so may make you subject to further orders under the HPPA.

## 2. Directives

The directives reflect both the scientific information that is available, as well as the techniques necessary to provide overall management of the outbreak. They are not open to individual interpretation or application. Failure to comply may make the individual subject to further orders under the HPPA.

The directives are under frequent review and those of you who wish to provide additional insights may comment by calling 1-866-212-2272 or e-mailing [mohltc14@moh.gov.on.ca](mailto:mohltc14@moh.gov.on.ca) . Nevertheless, the existing directives must be followed.

## 3. Transfers

All transfers between health care facilities must be routed through the Provincial Transfer Authorization Centre (PTAC) as per the *Updated Provincial Inter-Facility Patient Transfer Directive*, May 12, 2003. This includes transfers by private transport companies, both health-focused and taxi, and by private vehicles. All transfers must include the PTAC number.

The health care system has every reason to be proud of its response to the SARS outbreak. The overwhelming majority of you have complied in every sense with the direction provided. It is important that continued compliance is maintained.

Once again, we extend our appreciation for the incredible effort shown by frontline workers, service providers and volunteers to manage this situation.

*Original signed by*

---

**Dr. James G. Young**  
Commissioner of Public Security

*Original signed by*

---

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